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C O N T A I N I N G T H E I R

P R O C E E D I N G S

FROM SEPTEMBER 5, 1774, TO JANUARY 1, 1776.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

V O L U M E I.

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“ *RESOLVED*

BY the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, be authorized and directed, to subscribe, on such terms as they may deem eligible, for the use of the Senate and House of Representatives, for four hundred Copies of the Journals of Congress, which are proposed to be published by RICHARD FOLWELL, and such number of copies of different volumes of the sets now in print, as may be necessary to complete the same.

JONATHAN DAYTON, *Speaker of the
House of Representatives.*

JAMES ROSS, *President of the Senate pro tempore.*

APPROVED, March 2d, 1799:

JOHN ADAMS, *President
of the United States.”*

JOURNALS OF CONGRESS.

MONDAY, September 5, 1774.

A NUMBER of the delegates, chosen and appointed by the several colonies and provinces in North-America, to meet and hold a Congress at Philadelphia, assembled at the Carpenter's-Hall :

PRESENT :

From New-Hampshire :

Major John Sullivan, Esq; Col. Nathaniel Folsom, Esq;

From Massachusetts-Bay :

The Hon. Thomas Cushing, Esq; John Adams, Esq;

Mr. Samuel Adams, Robert Treat Paine, Esq;

From Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations :

The Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq; The Hon. Samuel Ward, Esq;

From Connecticut :

The Hon. Eliphalet Dyer, Esq; The Hon. Roger Sherman, Esq;

Silas Deane, Esq;

From the City and County of New-York, and other Counties in the

Province of New-York :

James Duane, Esq; Philip Livingston, Esq;

John Jay, Esq; Isaac Low, Esq;

From the County of Suffolk, in the Province of New-York :

Col. William Floyd, Esq;

From New-Jersey :

James Kinsey, Esq; John Dehart, Esq;

William Livingston, Esq; Stephen Crane, Esq;

Richard Smith, Esq;

From Pennsylvania :

The Hon. Joseph Galloway, Esq; Charles Humphreys, Esq;

Samuel Rhodes, Esq; John Morton, Esq;

Thomas Mifflin, Esq; Edward Biddle, Esq;

From Newcastle, Kent, and Sussex, on Delaware :

The Hon. Caesar Rodney, Esq; Thomas M^cKean, Esq;

George Read, Esq;

From Maryland :

Robert Goldsborough, Esq; William Paca, Esq;

Samuel Chase, Esq;

From Virginia :

The Hon. Peyton Randolph, Esq; Richard Bland, Esq;

George Washington, Esq; Benjamin Harrison, Esq;

Patrick Henry, Esq; Edmund Pendleton, Esq;

From South-Carolina :

Henry Middleton, Esq; Christopher Gadsden, Esq;
John Rutledge, Esq; Thomas Lynch, Esq;
Edward Rutledge, Esq;

The Congress proceeded to the choice of a President, when the Hon. Peyton Randolph, Esq; was unanimously elected.

Mr. Charles Thomson was unanimously chosen Secretary.

The gentlemen from the several colonies produced their respective credentials, which were read and approved, as follows :

Province of New-Hampshire :

At a meeting of the deputies appointed by the several towns in this province, held at Exeter, in the county of Rockingham, 21st July, 1774, for the election of delegates, on behalf of this province, to join the General Congress proposed : Present 85 members :

The Hon. John Wentworth, Esq; in the chair.

Voted, that Major John Sullivan, and Col. Nathaniel Folsom, Esqrs; be appointed and empowered, as delegates, on the part of this province, to attend and assist in the General Congress of delegates from the other colonies, at such time and place as may be appointed, to devise, consult, and adopt such measures, as may have the most likely tendency to extricate the colonies from their present difficulties; to secure and perpetuate their rights, liberties, and privileges, and to restore that peace, harmony, and mutual confidence, which once happily subsisted between the parent country, and her colonies.

J. WENTWORTH, *Chairman.*

Province of Massachusetts-Bay :

In the House of Representatives, June 17, 1774.

This house having duly considered, and being deeply affected with the unhappy differences, which have long subsisted, and are increasing, between Great-Britain and the American colonies, do resolve: that a meeting of committees from the several colonies on this continent, is highly expedient and necessary, to consult upon the present state of the colonies, and the miseries to which they are and must be reduced, by the operation of certain acts of parliament respecting America, and to deliberate and determine upon wise and proper measures, to be by them recommended to all the colonies, for the recovery and establishment of their just rights and liberties, civil and religious, and the restoration of union and harmony between Great-Britain and the colonies, most ardently desired by all good men : Therefore, resolved, that the Hon. James Bowdoin, Esq; the Hon. Thomas Cushing, Esq; Mr. Samuel Adams, John Adams and Robert Treat Paine, Esqrs; be, and they are hereby appointed a committee on the part of this province, for the purposes aforesaid, any three of whom to be a quorum; to meet such committees or delegates from the other colonies, as have been or may be appointed, either by their respective houses of burgesses, or representatives, or by convention, or by the committees of correspondence appointed

by the respective houses of assembly, in the city of Philadelphia, or any other place that shall be judged most suitable by the committee, on the 1st day of September next; and that the speaker of the house be directed, in a letter to the speakers of the houses of burgesses or representatives in the several colonies, to inform them of the substance of these resolves.

SAMUEL ADAMS, *Clerk.*

Rhode-Island:

By the Hon. Joseph Wanton, Esq; governor, captain-general, and commander in chief of and over the English colony of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, in New-England in America.
To the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq; and the Hon. Samuel Ward, Esq;
Greeting.

Whereas the general assembly of the colony aforesaid, have nominated and appointed you, the said Stephen Hopkins and Samuel Ward, to represent the people of this colony in General Congresses of Representatives from this and the other colonies, at such time and place as should be agreed upon by the major part of the committees appointed, or to be appointed by the colonies in general; I do therefore hereby authorize, empower, and commissionate you, the said Stephen Hopkins and Samuel Ward, to repair to the city of Philadelphia, it being the place agreed upon by the major part of the colonies; and there, in behalf of this colony, to meet and join with the commissioners or delegates from the other colonies, in consulting upon proper measures to obtain a repeal of the several acts of the British parliament, for levying taxes upon his majesty's subjects in America, without their consent, and particularly an act lately passed for blocking up the port of Boston, and upon proper measures to establish the rights and liberties of the colonies, upon a just and solid foundation, agreeable to the instructions given you by the general assembly.

[L. S.] Given under my hand and the seal of the said colony, this 10th day of August, in the year of our Lord 1774, and the 14th of the reign of his most sacred Majesty George the Third, by the grace of God, King of Great-Britain, &c.

By his honour's command,
 HENRY WARD, *Sec'ry.*

J. WANTON.

Connecticut:

In the House of Representatives of the colony of Connecticut,
June 3d, 1774.

Whereas a Congress of commissioners from the several British colonies in America, is proposed by some of our neighbouring colonies, and thought necessary; and whereas, it may be found expedient that such Congress should be convened before the next sessions of this assembly:

Resolved, by this house, that the committee of correspondence be, and they are hereby empowered, on application to them made, or

from time to time, as may be found necessary, to appoint a suitable number to attend such Congress, or convention of commissioners, or committees of the several colonies in British America, and the persons thus to be chosen shall be, and they are hereby directed, in behalf of this colony, to attend such Congress; to consult and advise on proper measures for advancing the best good of the colonies, and such conferences, from time to time, to report to this house.

A true extract and copy from the Journal of the House.

WILLIAM WILLIAMS, *Clerk*.

Colony of Connecticut, ff.

New-London, July 13th, 1774.

At a meeting of the committee of correspondence for this colony :

The Hon. Ebenezer Silliman, Esq; in the chair :

The Hon. Eliphalet Dyer, the Hon. William Samuel Johnston, Eraustus Wolcott, Silas Deane, and Richard Law, Esqrs; were nominated, pursuant to the act of the Hon. House of Representatives of the said colony, at their sessions in May last, either three of which are hereby authorized and empowered, in behalf of this colony, to attend the General Congress of the colonies, proposed to be held at Philadelphia, on the first day of September next, or at such other time and place as shall be agreed on by the colonies, to consult and advise with the commissioners or committees of the several English colonies in America, on proper measures for advancing the best good of the colonies.

Signed, Ebenezer Silliman, William Williams, Benjamin Payne, Eraustus Wolcott, Joseph Trumbull, Samuel H. Parsons, Nathaniel Wales, jun. Silas Deane.

Hartford, August, 1774.

At a meeting of the committee of correspondence for this colony :

Eraustus Wolcott, Chairman :

The Hon. William Samuel Johnston, Eraustus Wolcott, and Richard Law, Esqrs; nominated by this committee at New-London, on the 13th of July last, as persons proper to attend the General Congress, to be held at Philadelphia, on the first of September next, as by said appointment, being unable, by reason of previous engagements and the state of their health, to attend said Congress, on behalf of this colony ; the Hon. Roger Sherman, and Joseph Trumbull, Esqrs; were nominated in the place of the aforesaid gentlemen, as persons proper to attend said Congress, in behalf of this colony, either of which are empowered, with the Hon. Eliphalet Dyer, and Silas Deane, Esqrs; for that purpose.

Signed, William Williams, Benjamin Payne, Joseph Trumbull, Nathaniel Wales, jun. Samuel H. Parsons, Samuel Bishop.

New-York :

By duly certified polls, taken by proper persons, in seven wards, it appears that James Duane, John Jay, Philip Livingston, Isaac

Low, and John Alfop, Esqrs; were elected as delegates for the city and county of New-York, to attend the Congress at Philadelphia, the first day of September next; and at a meeting of the committees of several districts in the county of West-Chester, the same gentlemen were appointed to represent that county; also by a letter from Jacob Lanling, jun. chairman, in behalf of the committee for Albany, it appears, that that city and county had adopted the same for their delegates. By another letter, it appears, that the committee from the several districts in the county of Dutchess, had likewise adopted the same as delegates to represent that county in Congress, and that committees of other towns approve of them as their delegates.

By a writing duly attested, it appears, the county of Suffolk, in the colony of New-York, have appointed colonel William Floyd, to represent them in Congress.

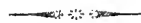


New-Jersey:

To James Kinsey, William Livingston, John Debart, Stephen Crane, and Richard Smith, Esqrs; each and every of you:

The committees, appointed by the several counties of the colony of New-Jersey, to nominate deputies, to represent the same in General Congress of deputies, from the other colonies in America, convened at the city of New-Brunswick, have nominated and appointed, and do hereby nominate and appoint you, and each of you, deputies, to represent the colony of New-Jersey, in the said General Congress. In testimony whereof, the chairman of the said several committees here met, have hereunto set their hands, this twenty-third day of July, in the fourteenth year of the reign of our sovereign lord king George the third, and in the year of our Lord 1774.

Signed, William P. Smith, Jacob Ford, John Moores, Robert Johnson, Robert Field, Robert Friend Price, Peter Zabrickie, Samuel Tucker, Edward Taylor, Hendrick Filher, Archibald Stewart, Thomas Anderson, Abia Brown, Mark Thompson.



Pennsylvania:

EXTRACT FROM VOTES OF ASSEMBLY.

Friday, July 22d, 1774, A. M.

The committee of the whole house, taking into their most serious consideration, the unfortunate differences which have long subsisted between Great-Britain and the American colonies, and being greatly increased by the operation and effects of divers late acts of the British parliament:

Resolved, N. C. D. That there is an absolute necessity that a Congress of deputies from the several colonies, be held as soon as conveniently may be, to consult together upon the present unhappy state of the colonies, and to form and adopt a plan for the purposes of obtaining redress of American grievances, ascertaining American rights upon the most solid and constitutional principles, and for establishing that union and harmony between Great-Britain and the colo-

nies. which is indispensably necessary to the welfare and happiness of both.

Eodem die, P. M.

The house resumed the consideration of the resolve from the committee of the whole house, and, after some debate thereon, adopting and confirming the same.

Resolved, N. C. D. That the Hon. Joseph Galloway, speaker; Samuel Rhoads, Thomas Mifflin, Charles Humphreys, John Morton, George Ross, and Edward Biddle, Esqrs; be and they are hereby appointed a committee, on the part of this province, for the purposes aforesaid, and that they, or any four of them, do meet such committees or delegates from the other colonies, as have been or may be appointed, either by their respective Houses of Representatives, or by convention, or by the provincial or colony committees, at such time and place, as shall be generally agreed on by such committee.

The three Counties New-Castle, Kent, and Sussex, on Delaware:
August 1, 1774. A. M.

The representatives of the freemen of the government of the counties of New-Castle, Kent, and Suffex, on Delaware, met at New-Castle, in pursuance of circular letters from the speaker of the house, who was requested to write and forward the same to the members of assembly, by the committees of correspondence for the several counties aforesaid, chosen and appointed for that among other purposes, by the freeholders and freemen of the said counties respectively: And having chosen a chairman, and read the resolves of the three respective counties, and sundry letters from the committees of correspondence along the continent, they unanimously entered into the following resolution, viz.

We, the representatives aforesaid, by virtue of the power delegated to us, as aforesaid, taking into our most serious consideration the several acts of the British parliament, for restraining manufactures in his majesty's colonies and plantations in North-America,—for taking away the property of the colonists without their participation or consent,—for the introduction of the arbitrary powers of excise into the customs here,—for the making all revenue causes triable without jury, and under the decision of a single dependent judge,—for the trial, in England, of persons accused of capital crimes, committed in the colonies,—for the shutting up the port of Boston,—for new-modelling the government of the Massachusetts-Bay, and the operation of the same on the property, liberty, and lives of the colonists; and also considering, that most eligible mode of determining upon the premises, and of endeavouring to procure relief and redress of our grievances, would have been by us assembled in a legislative capacity, but that as the house had adjourned to the 30th day of September next, and it is not to be expected, that his honour the governor would call us, by writs of summons, on this occasion, having refused to do the like in his other province of Pennsylvania; the next most proper method, of answering the expecta-

tions and desires of our constituents, and of contributing our aid to the general cause of America, is to appoint commissioners or deputies in behalf of the people of this government, to meet and act with those appointed by the other provinces, in General Congress; and we do, therefore, unanimously nominate and appoint Caesar Rodney, Thomas McKean, and George Read, Esqrs; or any two of them, deputies, on the part and behalf of this government, in a general continental Congress, proposed to be held at the city of Philadelphia, on the first Monday in September next, or at any other time or place that may be generally agreed on, then and there, to consult and advise with the deputies from the other colonies, and to determine upon all such prudent and lawful measures, as may be judged most expedient for the colonies immediately and unitedly to adopt, in order to obtain relief for an oppressed people, and the redress of our general grievances.

Signed by order of the convention,
 CÆSAR RODNEY, *Chairman.*

Maryland:

At a meeting of the committees appointed by the several counties of the province of Maryland, at the city of Annapolis, the 22d day of June, 1774, and continued by adjournment, from day to day, till the 25th of the same month:

Matthew Tilghman, Esq; in the chair:

John Duckett, clerk:

Resolved, That Matthew Tilghman, Thomas Johnson, jun. Robert Goldsborough, William Paca, and Samuel Chase, Esqrs; or any two or more of them, be deputies for this province, to attend a General Congress of deputies from the colonies, at such time and place as may be agreed on; to effect one general plan of conduct, operating on the commercial connection of the colonies with the mother country, for the relief of Belsen, and preservation of American liberty.

Virginia:

Monday the first of August, in the year of our Lord, 1774.

At a general meeting of delegates from the different counties in this colony, convened in the city of Williamsburgh, to take under their consideration the present critical and alarming situation of the continent of North-America:

Hon. Peyton Randolph, Esq; in the chair:

It was unanimously resolved, That it is the opinion of this meeting, that it will be highly conducive to the security and happiness of the British empire, that a General Congress of deputies from all the colonies, assemble as soon as the nature of their situations will admit, to consider of the most proper and effectual manner of so operating on the commercial connection of the colonies with the mother country, as to procure redress for the much-injured province of Massachusetts-Bay, to secure British America from the ravage and ruin

of arbitrary taxes, and speedily to procure the return of that harmony and union, so beneficial to the whole empire, and so ardently desired by all British America.

Friday, August 5, 1774.

The meeting proceeded to the choice of delegates, to represent this colony in General Congress, when the Hon. Peyton Randolph, Richard Henry Lee, George Washington, Patrick Henry, Richard Bland, Benjamin Harrison, and Edmund Pendleton, Esqrs; were appointed for that purpose.

—*—*—*—
South-Carolina:

In the Commons House of Assembly,

Tuesday, the 2d day of August, 1774.

Colonel Powel acquainted the house, that during the recess of this house, viz. on the sixth, seventh, and eighth days of July last, at a general meeting of the inhabitants of this colony, they having under consideration the acts of parliament lately passed with regard to the port of Boston and colony of Massachusetts-Bay, as well as other American grievances, had nominated and appointed the honourable Henry Middleton, John Rutledge, Thomas Lynch, Christopher Gadsden, and Edward Rutledge, Esqrs; deputies on the part and behalf of this colony, to meet the deputies of the other colonies of North-America, in General Congress, the first Monday in September next at Philadelphia, or at any other time and place that may be generally agreed on, there to consider the acts lately passed, and bills depending in parliament with regard to the port of Boston and colony of Massachusetts-Bay, which acts and bills in the precedent and consequences affect the whole continent of America—also the grievances under which America labours, by reason of the several acts of parliament that impose taxes or duties for raising a revenue, and lay unnecessary restraints and burdens on trade; and of the statutes, parliamentary acts, and royal instructions, which make an invidious distinction between his majesty's subjects in Great-Britain and America, with full power and authority to concert, agree to, and effectually prosecute such legal measures, as in the opinion of the said deputies, and of the deputies to be assembled, shall be most likely to obtain a repeal of the said acts, and a redress of those grievances: and thereupon moved that this house do resolve to recognize, ratify, and confirm the said appointment of the deputies for the purposes aforesaid.

Resolved, N. C. D. That this house do recognize, ratify, and confirm the appointment of the said deputies for the purposes mentioned in the said motion.

Attested,

THOMAS FARR, jun. clerk.

—*—*—*—
TUESDAY, September 6, 1774, A. M.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

Present: The same members as yesterday, and moreover, from the colony of Virginia, Richard Henry Lee, Esquire.

The Congress refusing the consideration of rules of conduct to be observed in debating and determining the questions, that come under consideration.

Resolved, That in determining questions in this Congress, each colony or province shall have one vote.—The Congress not being possessed of, or at present able to procure proper materials for ascertaining the importance of each colony.

Resolved, That no person shall speak more than twice on the same point, without leave of the Congress.

Resolved, That no question shall be determined the day, on which it is agitated and debated, if any one of the colonies desire the determination to be postponed to another day.

Resolved, That the door be kept shut during the time of business, and that the members consider themselves under the strongest obligations of honour, to keep the proceedings secret, until the majority shall direct them to be made public.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to state the rights of the colonies in general, the several instances in which those rights are violated or infringed, and the means most proper to be pursued for obtaining a restoration of them.

Ordered, That the appointment of the committee, and the number of which it shall consist, be deferred until to-morrow.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to examine and report the several statutes, which affect the trade and manufactures of the colonies.

Same order as above respecting the appointment and number of this committee.

Resolved, That the reverend Mr. Duche be desired to open the Congress to-morrow morning with prayers, at the Carpenter's Hall at nine o'clock.

Thomas Johnson, jun. Esq; one of the delegates from Maryland, attended and took his seat.

Extract from the minutes of the directors of the Library Company of Philadelphia, dated August 31st, 1774,—directed to the President, was read, as follows:

“ Upon motion ordered,

“ That the librarian furnish the gentlemen, who are to meet in Congress, with the use of such books as they may have occasion for, during their sitting, taking a receipt for them.

Signed by order of the directors.

WILLIAM ATTMORE, Secretary.”

Ordered, That the thanks of the Congress be returned to the directors of the Library Company of Philadelphia, for their obliging order.

Adjourned until nine o'clock to-morrow.

—*—
WEDNESDAY, September 7, 1774, A. M.

Agreeable to the resolve of yesterday, the meeting was opened with prayers by the Reverend Mr. Duche.

Voted, That the thanks of the Congress be given to Mr. Du-
che, by Mr. Cushing and Mr. Ward, for performing divine service,
and for the excellent prayer, which he composed and delivered on
the occasion.

The Congress, taking into consideration the appointment of the
committees, a vote was taken on the number of which the first
committee should consist, and, by a great majority, resolved that
it consist of two from each of the colonies, as follows :

From *New-Hampshire*, major John Sullivan, and colonel Folsom.

Massachusetts-Bay, Mr. Samuel Adams, and Mr. John Adams.

Rhode-Island, Mr. Hopkins, and Mr. Ward.

Connecticut, colonel Dyer, and Mr. Sherman.

New-York, Mr. James Duane, and Mr. John Jay.

New-Jersey, Mr. Livingston, and Mr. Dehart.

Pennsylvania, Mr. Joseph Galloway, and Mr. Edward Biddle.

Delaware government, Mr. Caesar Rodney, and Mr. McKean.

Maryland, Mr. Thomas Johnson, and Mr. Goldsborough.

Virginia, Mr. Lee, and Mr. Pendleton.

South-Carolina, Mr. Lynch, and Mr. J. Rutledge.

Agreed, that the second committee consist of one chosen from
each colony, as follows :

New-Hampshire, Mr. Sullivan.

Massachusetts-Bay, Mr. Cushing.

Rhode-Island, Mr. Hopkins.

Connecticut, Mr. Deane.

New-York, Mr. Low.

New-Jersey, Mr. Kinsey.

Pennsylvania, Mr. Mifflin.

Delaware Government, Mr. Read.

Maryland, Mr. Chase.

Virginia, Mr. Henry.

South-Carolina, Mr. Gadsden.

Ordered, That Isaac Lefevre, and James Lynch, be employed
as door-keepers and messengers to this Congress.

Resolved, That the President may adjourn the Congress from
day to day, when he finds there is no business prepared to be laid
before them, and may, when he finds it necessary, call them toge-
ther before the time to which they may stand adjourned.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning, nine o'clock.

The President, agreeable to the resolve of the seventh instant,
adjourned the Congress from day to day until,

—*—*—*—

MONDAY, September 12, 1774.

The Congress met.

Matthew Tilghman, Esq; one of the delegates from Maryland,
appeared and took his seat.

No business being prepared for the Congress, the President ad-
journed it until Tuesday, and from Tuesday until Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY, September 14, 1774, A. M.

William Hooper and Joseph Hewes, Esquires, two of the deputies from North-Carolina, attended the Congress, and produced their credentials, as follows :

North-Carolina, at a general meeting of deputies of the inhabitants of this province, Newbern, the 25th day of August, 1774 :

Resolved, That we approve of the proposal of a general Congress, to be held in the city of Philadelphia, on the twentieth day of September next, then and there to deliberate upon the present state of British America, and to take such measures, as they may deem prudent, to effect the purpose of describing with certainty the rights of Americans, repairing the breach made in those rights, and for guarding them for the future from any such violations done under the sanction of public authority.

Resolved, That William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, and Richard Caswell, Esquires, and every of them, be deputies to attend such Congress, and they are hereby invested with such powers, as may make any acts done by them, or consent given in behalf of this province, obligatory in honour upon every inhabitant hereof, who is not an alien to his country's good, and an apostate to the liberties of America.

Signed,

JOHN HERVEY, Moderator.

Attested,

Andrew Knox, Clerk.

The above being read and approved, the deputies took their seats.

Henry Wisner, a delegate from the county of Orange, in the colony of New-York, appeared at Congress, and produced a certificate of his election by the said county, which being read and approved, he took his seat in Congress as a deputy for the colony of New-York.

George Ross, one of the delegates for the province of Pennsylvania, and John Alsop, Esq; one of the delegates for the colony of New-York, appeared and took their seats in Congress.

Ordered, That William Hooper and Joseph Hewes, Esqrs; from North-Carolina, be added to the committee appointed to state the rights of the colonies.

Ordered, That William Hooper, Esq; be one of the committee appointed to report the statutes, which affect the trade, &c. of the colonies.

The delegates from the province of Massachusetts-Bay, agreeable to a request from the joint committees of every town and district in the county of Middlesex, in the said province, communicated to the Congress the proceedings of those committees at Concord, on the 30th and 31st days of August last, which were read.

Adjourned until to-morrow at nine o'clock.

No business being prepared, the Congress was adjourned from day to day, until Saturday morning, at nine o'clock.

SATURDAY, September 17, 1774, A. M.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

Richard Caswell, Esq; one of the deputies from North-Carolina, appeared, and took his seat in Congress.

The resolutions entered into by the delegates from the several towns and districts in the county of Suffolk, in the province of the Massachusetts-Bay, on Tuesday the 6th of September, and their address to his excellency governor Gage, dated the 9th, were laid before the Congress, and are as follows:—

At a meeting of the delegates of every town and district in the county of Suffolk, on Tuesday the 6th of September, at the house of Mr. Richard Woodward, of Dedham, and by adjournment at the house of Mr. — Vose, of Milton, on Friday the 9th instant, Joseph Palmer, Esq; being chosen moderator, and William Thompson, Esq; clerk, a committee was chosen to bring in a report to the convention, and the following being several times read, and put paragraph by paragraph, was unanimously voted, viz.

Whereas the power but not the justice, the vengeance but not the wisdom of Great-Britain, which of old persecuted, scourged, and exiled our fugitive parents from their native shores, now pursues us their guiltless children with unrelenting severity: And whereas this, then savage and uncultivated desert, was purchased by the toil and treasure, or acquired by the blood and valour of those our venerable progenitors; to us they bequeathed the dear bought inheritance, to our care and protection they consigned it, and the most sacred obligations are upon us to transmit the glorious purchase, unfettered by power, unclogged with shackles, to our innocent and beloved offspring. On the fortitude, on the wisdom and on the exertions of this important day, is suspended the fate of this new world, and of unborn millions. If a boundless extent of continent, swarming with millions, will tamely submit to live, move and have their being at the arbitrary will of a licentious minister, they basely yield to voluntary slavery, and future generations shall load their memories with incessant execrations.—On the other hand, if we arrest the hand which would ransack our pockets, if we disarm the parricide which points the dagger to our bosoms, if we nobly defeat that fatal edict which proclaims a power to frame laws for us in all cases whatsoever, thereby entailing the endless and numberless curses of slavery upon us, our heirs and their heirs forever; if we successfully resist that unparalleled usurpation of unconstitutional power whereby our capital is robbed of the means of life; whereby the streets of Boston are thronged with military executioners; whereby our coasts are lined and harbours crowded with ships of war; whereby the charter of the colony, that sacred barrier against the encroachments of tyranny, is mutilated and in effect annihilated; whereby a murderous law is framed to shelter villains from the hands of justice; whereby the unalienable and inestimable inheritance, which we derived from nature, the constitution of Britain, and the privileges warranted to us in the charter of the province, is totally wrecked, annulled, and vacated, posterity will acknowledge that virtue which preserved them free and

happy; and while we enjoy the rewards and blessings of the faithful, the torrent of panegyrist will roll our reputations to that latest period, when the streams of time shall be absorbed in the abyss of eternity.—Therefore we have resolved, and do *resolve*,

1. That whereas his majesty, George the Third, is the rightful successor to the throne of Great-Britain, and justly entitled to the allegiance of the British realm, and agreeable to compact, of the English colonies in America—therefore, we the heirs and successors of the first planters of this colony, do cheerfully acknowledge the said George the Third to be our rightful sovereign, and that said covenant is the tenure and claim on which are founded our allegiance and submission.

2. That it is an indispensable duty which we owe to God, our country, ourselves and posterity, by all lawful ways and means in our power to maintain, defend and preserve those civil and religious rights and liberties, for which many of our fathers fought, bled and died, and to hand them down entire to future generations.

3. That the late acts of the British parliament for blocking up the harbour of Boston, for altering the established form of government in this colony, and for screening the most flagitious violators of the laws of the province from a legal trial, are gross infractions of those rights to which we are justly entitled by the laws of nature, the British constitution, and the charter of the province.

4. That no obedience is due from this province to either or any part of the acts above-mentioned, but that they be rejected as the attempts of a wicked administration to enslave America.

5. That so long as the justices of our superiour court of judicature, court of assize, &c. and inferiour court of common pleas in this county are appointed, or hold their places, by any other tenure than that which the charter and the laws of the province direct, they must be considered as under undue influence, and are therefore unconstitutional offices, and as such no regard ought to be paid to them by the people of this county.

6. That if the justices of the superiour court of judicature, assize, &c. justices of the court of common pleas, or of the general sessions of the peace, shall sit and act during their present disqualified state, this county will support and bear harmless all sheriffs and their deputies, constables, jurors and other officers who shall refuse to carry into execution the orders of said courts; and as far as possible to prevent the many inconveniencies which must be occasioned by a suspension of the courts of justice, we do most earnestly recommend it to all creditors that they shew all reasonable and even generous forbearance to their debtors; and to all debtors, to pay their just debts with all possible speed, and if any disputes relative to debts or trespasses shall arise, which cannot be settled by the parties, we recommend it to them to submit all such causes to arbitration; and it is our opinion that the contending parties or either of them, who shall refuse so to do, ought to be considered as co-operating with the enemies of this country.

7. That it be recommended to the collectors of taxes, constables and all other officers, who have public monies in their hands, to retain the same, and not to make any payment thereof to the provincial county treasurer until the civil government of the province is placed upon a constitutional foundation, or until it shall otherwise be ordered by the proposed provincial Congress.

8. That the persons who have accepted seats at the council board, by virtue of a mandamus from the King, in conformity to the late act of the British parliament, entitled, an act for the regulating the government of the Massachusetts-Bay, have acted in direct violation of the duty they owe to their country, and have thereby given great and just offence to this people; therefore, resolved, that this county do recommend it to all persons, who have so highly offended by accepting said departments, and have not already publicly resigned their seats at the council board, to make public resignations of their places at said board, on or before the 20th day of this instant, September; and that all persons refusing so to do, shall, from and after said day, be considered by this county as obstinate and incorrigible enemies to this country.

9. That the fortifications begun and now carrying on upon Boston Neck, are justly alarming to this county, and gives us reason to apprehend some hostile intention against that town, more especially as the commander in chief has, in a very extraordinary manner, removed the powder from the magazine at Charlestown, and has also forbidden the keeper of the magazine at Boston, to deliver out to the owners, the powder, which they had lodged in said magazine.

10. That the late act of parliament for establishing the Roman Catholic religion and the French laws in that extensive country, now called Quebec, is dangerous in an extreme degree to the protestant religion and to the civil rights and liberties of all America; and, therefore, as men and protestant Christians, we are indispensably obliged to take all proper measures for our security.

11. That whereas our enemies have flattered themselves that they shall make an easy prey of this numerous, brave and hardy people, from an apprehension that they are unacquainted with military discipline; we, therefore, for the honour, defence and security of this county and province, advise, as it has been recommended to take away all commissions from the officers of the militia, that those who now hold commissions, or such other persons, be elected in each town as officers in the militia, as shall be judged of sufficient capacity for that purpose, and who have evidenced themselves the inflexible friends to the rights of the people; and that the inhabitants of those towns and districts, who are qualified, do use their utmost diligence to acquaint themselves with the art of war as soon as possible, and do, for that purpose, appear under arms at least once every week.

12. That during the present hostile appearances on the part of Great-Britain, notwithstanding the many insults and oppressions which we most sensibly resent, yet, nevertheless, from our affection

to his majesty, which we have at all times evidenced, we are determined to act merely upon the defensive, so long as such conduct may be vindicated by reason and the principles of self-preservation, but no longer.

13. That, as we understand it has been in contemplation to apprehend sundry persons of this county, who have rendered themselves conspicuous in contending for the violated rights and liberties of their countrymen; we do recommend, should such an audacious measure be put in practice, to seize and keep in safe custody, every servant of the present tyrannical and unconstitutional government throughout the county and province, until the persons so apprehended be liberated from the hands of our adversaries, and restored safe and uninjured to their respective friends and families.

14. That until our rights are fully restored to us, we will, to the utmost of our power, and we recommend the same to the other counties, to withhold all commercial intercourse with Great Britain, Ireland, and the West-Indies, and abstain from the consumption of British merchandize and manufactures, and especially of East-India teas and piece goods, with such additions, alterations, and exceptions only, as the general Congress of the colonies may agree to.

15. That under our present circumstances, it is incumbent on us to encourage arts and manufactures amongst us, by all means in our power, and that

be and are hereby appointed a committee, to consider of the best ways and means to promote and establish the same, and to report to this convention as soon as may be.

16. That the exigencies of our public affairs, demand that a provincial Congress be called to consult such measures as may be adopted, and vigorously executed by the whole people; and we do recommend it to the several towns in this county, to chuse members for such a provincial Congress, to be holden at Concord, on the second Tuesday of October, next ensuing.

17. That this county, confiding in the wisdom and integrity of the continental Congress, now sitting at Philadelphia, pay all due respect and submission to such measures as may be recommended by them to the colonies, for the restoration and establishment of their just rights, civil and religious, and for renewing that harmony and union between Great-Britain and the colonies, so earnestly wished for by all good men.

18. That whereas the universal uneasiness which prevails among all orders of men, arising from the wicked and oppressive measures of the present administration, may influence some unthinking persons to commit outrage upon private property; we would heartily recommend to all persons of this community, not to engage in any routs, riots, or licentious attacks upon the properties of any person whatsoever, as being subversive of all order and government; but, by a steady, manly, uniform, and persevering opposition, to convince our enemies, that in a contest so important, in a cause so solemn,

our conduct shall be such as to merit the approbation of the wife, and the admiration of the brave and free of every age and of every country.

19. That should our enemies, by any sudden manœuvres, render it necessary to ask the aid and assistance of our brethren in the country, some one of the committee of correspondence, or a select man of such town, or the town adjoining, where such hostilities shall commence, or shall be expected to commence, shall dispatch couriers with written messages to the select men, or committees of correspondence, of the several towns in the vicinity, with a written account of such matter, who shall dispatch others to committees more remote, until proper and sufficient assistance be obtained, and that the expence of said couriers be defrayed by the county, until it shall be otherwise ordered by the provincial Congress.

At a meeting of delegates from the several towns and districts in the county of Suffolk, held at Milton, on Friday, the 9th day of September, 1774—*Voted*,

That Dr. Joseph Warren, of Boston, &c. be a committee to wait on his excellency the governor, to inform him, that this county are alarmed at the fortifications making on Boston Neck, and to remonstrate against the same, and the repeated insults offered by the soldiery, to persons passing and repassing into that town, and to confer with him upon those subjects.

Attest,

WILLIAM THOMSON, Clerk.

“ To his excellency THOMAS GAGE, Esq; captain-general, and commander in chief of his majesty's province of Massachusetts Bay.

“ *May it please your excellency,*

“ The county of Suffolk being greatly, and in their opinion justly, alarmed at the formidable appearances of hostility, now threatening his majesty's good subjects of this county, and more particularly of the town of Boston, the loyal and faithful capital of this province, beg leave to address your excellency, and represent that the apprehensions of the people, are more particularly increased by the dangerous design now carrying into execution of repairing and manning the fortification at the south entrance of the town of Boston, which when completed, may at any time be improved to aggravate the miseries of that already impoverished and distressed city, by intercepting the wonted and necessary intercourse between the town and country, and compel the wretched inhabitants to the most ignominious state of humiliation and vassalage, by depriving them of the necessary supplies of provision, for which they are chiefly dependant on that communication: We have been informed, that your excellency in consequence of the application of the select men of Boston, has indeed disavowed any intention to injure the town in your present manœuvres, and expressed your purpose to be for the security of the troops and his majesty's subjects in the town, we are therefore at a loss to guess, may it please your excellency, from whence your want of confidence in the loyal and orderly peo-

ple of this vicinity could originate ; a measure, so formidable, carried into execution from a pre-conceived though causeless jealousy of the insecurity of his majesty's troops and subjects in the town, deeply wounds the loyalty, and is an additional injury to the faithful subjects of this county, and affords them a strong motive for this application : We therefore intreat your excellency to desist from your design, assuring your excellency, that the people of this county, are by no means disposed to injure his majesty's troops ; they think themselves aggrieved and oppressed by the late acts of parliament, and are resolved, by Divine assistance, never to submit to them, but have no inclination to commence a war with his majesty's troops, and beg leave to observe to your excellency, that the ferment now excited in the minds of the people, is occasioned by some late transactions, by seizing the powder in the arsenal at Charlestown ; by withholding the powder lodged in the magazine of the town of Boston, from the legal proprietors ; insulting, beating, and abusing passengers to and from the town by the soldiery, in which they have been encouraged by some of their officers ; putting the people in fear, and menacing them in their nightly patrols into the neighbouring towns, and more particularly by the fortifying the sole avenue by land to the town of Boston.

In duty therefore to his majesty and to your excellency, and for the restoration of order and security to this county, we, the delegates from the several towns in this county, being commissioned for this purpose, beg your excellency's attention to this our humble and faithful address, assuring you, that nothing less than an immediate removal of the ordnance, and restoring the entrance into the town to its former state, and an effectual stop of all insults and abuses in future, can place the inhabitants of this county in that state of peace and tranquillity, in which every free subject ought to be."

His excellency was waited on to know if he would receive the committee with the above written address, but desiring he might have a copy of it in a private way, that so when he received it from the committee, he might have an answer prepared for them, he was accordingly furnished with a copy : His excellency then declared, that he would receive the committee on Monday, at 12 o'clock.

SATURDAY, September 10, 1774.

The Congress, taking the foregoing into consideration,

Resolved unanimously, That this assembly deeply feels the suffering of their countrymen in the Massachusetts-Bay, under the operation of the late unjust, cruel, and oppressive acts of the British parliament—that they most thoroughly approve the wisdom and fortitude, with which opposition to these wicked ministerial measures has hitherto been conducted, and they earnestly recommend to their brethren, a perseverance in the same firm and temperate conduct as expressed in the resolutions determined upon, at a meeting of the delegates for the county of Suffolk, on Tuesday the 6th instant,

trusting that the effect of the united efforts of North-America in their behalf, will carry such conviction to the British nation, of the unwise, unjust, and ruinous policy of the present administration, as quickly to introduce better men and wiser measures.

Resolved unanimously, That contributions from all the colonies for supplying the necessities, and alleviating the distresses of our brethren at Boston, ought to be continued, in such manner, and so long as their occasions may require.

Ordered, That a copy of the above resolutions be transmitted to Boston by the President.

Ordered, That these resolutions, together with the resolutions of the county of Suffolk, be published in the newspapers.

The committee appointed to examine and report the several statutes, which affect the trade and manufactures of the colonies, brought in their report, which was ordered to lie on the table.

Adjourned till Monday morning.

MONDAY, September 19, 1774. A. M.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

The report brought in on Saturday being read,

Ordered, That the same be referred to the committee appointed to state the rights of the colonies, &c. to which committee, the honourable Thomas Cushing, Esq; Patrick Henry, and Thomas Mifflin, Esqrs; were added.

Adjourned from day to day, till Thursday.

THURSDAY, September 22, 1774.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

Upon motion,

Resolved unanimously, That the Congress request the merchants and others in the several colonies, not to send to Great-Britain, any orders for goods, and to direct the execution of all orders already sent, to be delayed or suspended, until the sense of the Congress on the means to be taken for the preservation of the liberties of America is made public.

Ordered, That this resolution be made public by hand-bills, and by publishing it in the newspapers.

The committee appointed to state the rights, &c. of the colonies, having brought in a report of rights, the same was read, and the consideration of it referred till Saturday next.

Ordered, That a copy of this report be made out for each colony.

SATURDAY, September 24, 1774. A. M.

The Congress entered upon the consideration of the report referred to this day, and after some debate, upon motion,

Resolved, That the Congress do confine themselves, at present, to the consideration of such rights, as have been infringed by acts of the British parliament since the year 1763, postponing the further consideration of the general state of American rights to a future day.

Hereupon, the committee appointed to state the rights, &c. brought in a report of the infringements and violations of American rights, which being read—upon motion,

Resolved, That the consideration of this report be referred till Monday, and that the Congress in the mean time deliberate on the means most proper to be used for a restoration of our rights.

After some debate on the subject, the Congress adjourned.

MONDAY, September 26, 1774. A. M.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

John Herring, Esq; a deputy from Orange county, in the colony of New-York, appeared this morning, and took his seat as a delegate for that colony.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the means, &c. and after several hours spent thereon, it was referred till to-morrow, to which time the Congress was adjourned.

TUESDAY, September 27, 1774. A. M.

The Congress met according to adjournment, and resuming the consideration of the means most proper to be used for a restoration of American rights,

Resolved unanimously, That from and after the first day of December next, there be no importation into British America from Great-Britain or Ireland, of any goods, wares or merchandize whatever, or from any other place, of any such goods, wares or merchandizes, as shall have been exported from Great-Britain or Ireland, and that no such goods, wares or merchandizes imported after the said first day of December next, be used or purchased.

Adjourned till to-morrow.

Wednesday and Thursday being taken up in the consideration and debates on the means, &c. the Congress met on Friday, 30th September—and upon the question,

Resolved, That from and after the 10th day of September, 1775, the exportation of all merchandize and every commodity whatsoever to Great-Britain, Ireland, and the West-Indies, ought to cease, unless the grievances of America are redressed before that time.

Ordered, That Mr. Cushing, Mr. Low, Mr. Misslin, Mr. Lee, and Mr. Johnson, be a committee to bring in a plan for carrying into effect, the non-importation, non-consumption, and non-exportation resolved on.

SATURDAY, October 1, 1774.

Simon Boerum, Esq; appeared in Congress as a deputy from King's county, in the colony of New-York, and produced the credentials of his election, which being read and approved, he took his seat as a delegate for that colony.

The Congress, resuming the consideration of the means, &c. upon motion,

Resolved unanimously, That a loyal address to his majesty be prepared, dutifully requesting the royal attention to the grievances that alarm and distress his majesty's faithful subjects in North-America, and entreating his majesty's gracious interposition for the removal of such grievances; thereby to restore between Great-Britain and the colonies that harmony so necessary to the happiness of the British empire, and so ardently desired by all America.

Agreed, That Mr. Lee, Mr. J. Adams, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Henry, and Mr. Rutledge, be a committee, to prepare an address to his majesty.

MONDAY, October 3, 1774.

The Congress met, according to adjournment, and after some debate,

Resolved unanimously, That it be an instruction to the committee, who are appointed to draw up an address to the king: Whereas parliamentary taxes on America have been laid, on pretence of "defraying the expenses of government, and supporting the administration of justice, and defending, protecting, and securing the colonies." That they do assure his majesty, that the colonies have or will make ample provision for defraying all the necessary expenses of supporting government, and the due administration of justice in the respective colonies; that the militia, if put on a proper footing, would be amply sufficient for their defence in time of peace; that they are desirous of putting it on such a footing immediately, and that in case of war, the colonies are ready to grant supplies for raising any further forces that may be necessary.

The remainder of this day and the day following, was taken up in deliberating and debating on matters proper to be contained in the address to his majesty.

WEDNESDAY, October 5th, 1774.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the subject in debate yesterday, and after some time spent thereon,

Resolved, That the committee appointed to prepare an address to his majesty, be instructed to assure his majesty, that in case the colonies shall be restored to the state they were in, at the close of the late war, by abolishing the system of laws and regulations—for raising a revenue in America—for extending the powers of courts of admiralty—for the trial of persons beyond sea for crimes committed in America—for affecting the colony of the Massachusetts-Bay—and for altering the government, and extending the limits of Canada, the jealousies which have been occasioned by such acts and regulations of parliament, will be removed, and commerce again restored.

An address from William Goddard to the Congress was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

THURSDAY, October 6th, 1774.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the means proper to

be used for a restoration of American rights. During this debate, an express from Boston arrived with a letter from the committee of correspondence dated the 29th of September, which was laid before the Congress.

In this the committee of correspondence inform the Congress, that they "expected some regard would have been paid to the petitions presented to their governor, against fortifying their town in such a manner as can be accounted for only upon the supposition, that the town and country are to be treated by the soldiery as declared enemies—that the entrenchments upon the Neck are nearly completed—that cannon are mounted at the entrance of the town—that it is currently reported, that fortifications are to be erected on Corpse-Hill, Bacon-Hill, Fort-Hill, &c. so that the fortifications, with the ships in the harbour, may absolutely command every avenue to the town both by sea and land—that a number of cannon, the property of a private gentleman, were a few days ago seized and taken from his wharf by order of the general—that from several circumstances mentioned in the letter, there is reason to apprehend, that Boston is to be made and kept a garrisoned town—that from all they can hear from Britain, administration is resolved to do all in their power to force them to a submission—that when the town is inclosed, it is apprehended the inhabitants will be held as hostages for the submission of the country, they apply therefore to the Congress for advice how to act—that, if the Congress advise to quit the town, they obey—if it is judged that by maintaining their ground they can better serve the public cause, they will not shrink from hardship and danger—finally, that as the late acts of parliament have made it impossible that there should be a due administration of justice, and all law therefore must be suspended—that as the governor has by proclamation prevented the meeting of the general court, they therefore request the advice of the Congress."

Ordered, That this letter be taken into consideration to-morrow morning.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the means, &c.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to prepare the form of an association, be directed to adopt the following clause, viz.—That from and after the first day of December next, no molasses, coffee or pimento from the British plantations or from Dominica, or wines from Madeira and the Western Islands, or foreign indigo be imported into these colonies.

FRIDAY, October 7th, 1774.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the letter from the committee of correspondence in Boston, and after some debate,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to prepare a letter to his excellency general Gage, representing "that the town of Boston, and province of Massachusetts-Bay, are considered by all America, as suffering in the common cause, for their noble and spirit-

ed opposition to oppressive acts of parliament, calculated to deprive us of our most sacred rights and privileges."—Expressing our concern, that, while the Congress are deliberating on the most peaceable means for restoring American liberty, and that harmony and intercourse, which subsisted between us and the parent kingdom, so necessary to both, his excellency, as they are informed, is raising fortifications round the town of Boston, thereby exciting well grounded jealousies in the minds of his majesty's faithful subjects therein, that he means to cut off all communication between them and their brethren in the country, and reduce them to a state of submission to his will, and that the soldiers under his excellency's command, are frequently violating private property, and offering various insults to the people, which must irritate their minds, and if not put a stop to, involve all America in the horrors of a civil war.—To entreat his excellency, from the assurance we have of the peaceable disposition of the inhabitants of the town of Boston and the province of the Massachusetts-Bay, to discontinue his fortifications, and that a free and safe communication be restored and continued between the town of Boston and the country, and prevent all injuries on the part of the troops, until his majesty's pleasure shall be known, after the measures now adopting shall have been laid before him.

Mr. Lynch, Mr. S. Adams, and Mr. Pendleton, are appointed a committee to draught a letter agreeable to the foregoing resolution.

SATURDAY, October 3, 1774.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the letter from Boston, and upon motion,

Resolved, That this Congress approve the opposition of the inhabitants of the Massachusetts-Bay, to the execution of the late acts of parliament; and if the same shall be attempted to be carried into execution by force, in such case, all America ought to support them in their opposition.

MONDAY, October 10, 1774.

The Congress, resuming the consideration of the letter from Boston,

Resolved unanimously, That it is the opinion of this body, that the removal of the people of Boston into the country, would be, not only extremely difficult in the execution, but so important in its consequences, as to require the utmost deliberation before it is adopted; but, in case the provincial meeting of that colony should judge it absolutely necessary, it is the opinion of the Congress, that all America ought to contribute towards recompensing them for the injury they may thereby sustain; and it will be recommended accordingly.

Resolved, That the Congress recommend to the inhabitants of the colony of Massachusetts-Bay, to submit to a suspension of the administration of justice, where it cannot be procured in a legal and

peaceable manner, under the rules of their present charter, and the laws of the colony founded thereon.

Resolved unanimously, That every person and persons whomsoever, who shall take, accept, or act under any commission or authority, in anywise derived from the act passed in the last session of parliament, changing the form of government, and violating the charter of the province of Massachusetts-Bay, ought to be held in detestation and abhorrence by all good men, and considered as the wicked tools of that despotism, which is preparing to destroy those rights, which God, nature, and compact, have given to America.

The committee brought in a draught of a letter to general Gage, and the same being read and amended, was ordered to be copied, and to be signed by the President in behalf of the Congress.

TUESDAY, October 11, 1774.

A copy of the letter to general Gage, was brought into Congress, and agreeable to order, signed by the President, and is as follows:

Philadelphia, October 10, 1774.

SIR,

“ The inhabitants of the town of Boston have informed us, the representatives of his majesty’s faithful subjects in all the colonies from Nova-Scotia to Georgia, that the fortifications erecting within that town, the frequent invasions of private property, and the repeated insults they receive from the soldiery, have given them great reason to suspect a plan is formed very destructive to them, and tending to overthrow the liberties of America.

“ Your excellency cannot be a stranger to the sentiments of America, with respect to the acts of parliament, under the execution of which, those unhappy people are oppressed, the approbation universally expressed of their conduct, and the determined resolution of the colonies, for the preservation of their common rights, to unite in their opposition to those acts.—In consequence of these sentiments, they have appointed us the guardians of their rights and liberties, and we are under the deepest concern, that whilst we are pursuing dutiful and peaceable measures to procure a cordial and effectual reconciliation between Great-Britain and the colonies, your excellency should proceed in a manner that bears so hostile an appearance, and which even those oppressive acts do not warrant.

“ We entreat your excellency to consider what a tendency this conduct must have to irritate and force a free people, hitherto well disposed to peaceable measures, into hostilities, which may prevent the endeavours of this Congress to restore a good understanding with our parent state, and may involve us in the horrors of a civil war.

“ In order therefore to quiet the minds and remove the reasonable jealousies of the people, that they may not be driven to a state of desperation, being fully persuaded of their pacific disposition towards the king’s troops, could they be assured of their own safety, we hope, sir, you will discontinue the fortifications in and about

Boston, prevent any further invasions of private property, restrain the irregularities of the soldiers, and give orders that the communication between the town and country may be open, unmolested and free.

Signed by order and in behalf
of the General Congress,
PEYTON RANDOLPH, President.

As the Congress have given general Gage an assurance of the peaceable disposition of the people of Boston and the Massachusetts-Bay,

Resolved unanimously, That they be advised still to conduct themselves peaceably towards his excellency general Gage, and his majesty's troops now stationed in the town of Boston, as far as can possibly be consistent with their immediate safety, and the security of the town; avoiding and discountenancing every violation of his majesty's property, or any insult to his troops, and that they peaceably and firmly persevere in the line they are now conducting themselves, on the defensive.

Ordered, That a copy of the foregoing resolve, and of that passed on Saturday, and the three passed yesterday, be made out, and that the President inclose them in a letter to the committee of correspondence for the town of Boston, being the sentiments of the Congress on the matters referred to them by the committee, in their letter of the 29th of September last.

Resolved unanimously, That a memorial be prepared to the people of British America, stating to them the necessity of a firm, united, and invariable observation of the measures recommended by the Congress, as they tender the invaluable rights and liberties derived to them from the laws and constitution of their country:

Also that an address be prepared to the people of Great-Britain.

Ordered, That Mr. Lee, Mr. Livingston, and Mr. Jay, be a committee to prepare a draught of the memorial and address.

WEDNESDAY, October 12, 1774.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

The committee appointed to prepare a plan for carrying into effect, the non-importation, non-consumption, and non-exportation agreement, brought in a report, which was read:

Ordered, That the same lie on the table, for the perusal of the members:

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the rights and grievances of these colonies, and after deliberating on the subject this and the following day, adjourned till Friday.

FRIDAY, October 14, 1774.

The Congress met according to adjournment, and resuming the consideration of the subject under debate—made the following *declaration* and *resolves*:

Whereas, since the close of the last war, the British parliament,

claiming a power, of right, to bind the people of America by statutes in all cases whatsoever, hath, in some acts, expressly imposed taxes on them, and in others, under various pretences, but in fact for the purpose of raising a revenue, hath imposed rates and duties payable in these colonies, established a board of commissioners, with unconstitutional powers, and extended the jurisdiction of courts of admiralty, not only for collecting the said duties, but for the trial of causes merely arising within the body of a county.

And whereas, in consequence of other statutes, judges, who before held only estates at will in their offices, have been made dependant on the crown alone for their salaries, and standing armies kept in times of peace : And whereas it has lately been resolved in parliament, that by force of a statute, made in the thirty-fifth year of the reign of king Henry the eighth, colonists may be transported to England, and tried there upon accusations for treasons and misprisions, or concealments of treasons committed in the colonies, and by a late statute, such trials have been directed in cases therein mentioned :

And whereas, in the last session of parliament, three statutes were made ; one entitled, “ An act to discontinue, in such manner and for such time as are therein mentioned, the landing and discharging, lading, or shipping of goods, wares and merchandize, at the town, and within the harbour of Boston, in the province of Massachusetts-Bay in North-America ;” another entitled, “ An act for the better regulating the government of the province of Massachusetts-Bay in New England ;” and another entitled, “ An act for the impartial administration of justice, in the cases of persons questioned for any act done by them in the execution of the law, or for the suppression of riots and tumults, in the province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New England ;” and another statute was then made, “ for making more effectual provision for the government of the province of Quebec, &c.” All which statutes are impolitic, unjust, and cruel, as well as unconstitutional, and most dangerous and destructive of American rights :

And whereas, assemblies have been frequently dissolved, contrary to the rights of the people, when they attempted to deliberate on grievances ; and their dutiful, humble, loyal, and reasonable petitions to the crown for redress, have been repeatedly treated with contempt, by his majesty’s ministers of state :

The good people of the several colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Newcastle, Kent, and Suffex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, and South-Carolina, justly alarmed at these arbitrary proceedings of parliament and administration, have severally elected, constituted, and appointed deputies to meet, and sit in general Congress, in the city of Philadelphia, in order to obtain such establishment, as that their religion, laws, and liberties, may not be subverted : Whereupon the deputies so appointed being now assembled, in a full and

free representation of these colonies, taking into their most serious consideration, the best means of attaining the ends aforesaid, do, in the first place, as Englishmen, their ancestors in like cases have usually done, for asserting and vindicating their rights and liberties, **DECLARE,**

That the inhabitants of the English colonies in North-America, by the immutable laws of nature, the principles of the English constitution, and the several charters or compacts, have the following **RIGHTS:**

Resolved, N. C. D. 1. That they are entitled to life, liberty, and property: and they have never ceded to any sovereign power whatever, a right to dispose of either without their consent.

Resolved, N. C. D. 2. That our ancestors, who first settled these colonies, were at the time of their emigration from the mother country, entitled to all the rights, liberties, and immunities of free and natural-born subjects, within the realm of England.

Resolved, N. C. D. 3. That by such emigration they by no means forfeited, surrendered, or lost any of those rights, but that they were, and their descendants now are, entitled to the exercise and enjoyment of all such of them, as their local and other circumstances enable them to exercise and enjoy.

Resolved, 4. That the foundation of English liberty, and of all free government, is a right in the people to participate in their legislative council: and as the English colonists are not represented, and from their local and other circumstances, cannot properly be represented in the British parliament, they are entitled to a free and exclusive power of legislation in their several provincial legislatures, where their right of representation can alone be preserved, in all cases of taxation and internal polity, subject only to the negative of their sovereign, in such manner as has been heretofore used and accustomed: But, from the necessity of the case, and a regard to the mutual interest of both countries, we cheerfully consent to the operation of such acts of the British parliament, as are bona fide, restrained to the regulation of our external commerce, for the purpose of securing the commercial advantages of the whole empire to the mother country, and the commercial benefits of its respective members; excluding every idea of taxation internal or external, for raising a revenue on the subjects, in America, without their consent.

Resolved, N. C. D. 5. That the respective colonies are entitled to the common law of England, and more especially to the great and inestimable privilege of being tried by their peers of the vicinage, according to the course of that law.

Resolved, 6. That they are entitled to the benefit of such of the English statutes, as existed at the time of their colonization; and which they have, by experience, respectively found to be applicable to their several local and other circumstances.

Resolved, N. C. D. 7. That these, his majesty's colonies, are likewise entitled to all the immunities and privileges granted and con-

firmed to them by royal charters, or secured by their several codes of provincial laws.

Resolved, N. C. D. 8. That they have a right peaceably to assemble, consider of their grievances, and petition the king; and that all prosecutions, prohibitory proclamations, and commitments for the time, are illegal.

Resolved, N. C. D. 9. That the keeping a standing army in these colonies, in times of peace, without the consent of the legislature of that colony, in which such army is kept, is against law.

Resolved, N. C. D. 10. It is indispensably necessary to good government, and rendered essential by the English constitution, that the constituent branches of the legislature be independent of each other; that, therefore, the exercise of legislative power in several colonies, by a council appointed, during pleasure, by the crown, is unconstitutional, dangerous and destructive to the freedom of American legislation.

All and each of which the aforesaid deputies, in behalf of themselves, and their constituents, do claim, demand, and insist on, as their indubitable rights and liberties; which cannot be legally taken from them, altered or abridged by any power whatever, without their own consent, by their representatives in their several provincial legislatures.

In the course of our inquiry, we find many infringements and violations of the foregoing rights, which, from an ardent desire, that harmony and mutual intercourse of affection and interest may be restored, we pass over for the present, and proceed to state such acts and measures as have been adopted since the last war, which demonstrate a system formed to enslave America.

Resolved, N. C. D. That the following acts of parliament are infringements and violations of the rights of the colonists; and that the repeal of them is essentially necessary, in order to restore harmony between Great-Britain and the American colonies, viz.

The several acts of 4 Geo. III. ch. 15. and ch. 34.—5 Geo. III. ch. 25.—6 Geo. III. ch. 52.—7 Geo. III. ch. 41. and ch. 46.—8 Geo. III. ch. 22. which impose duties for the purpose of raising a revenue in America, extend the power of the admiralty courts beyond their ancient limits, deprive the American subject of trial by jury, authorise the judges certificate to indemnify the prosecutor from damages, that he might otherwise be liable to, requiring oppressive security from a claimant of ships and goods seized, before he shall be allowed to defend his property, and are subversive of American rights.

Also 12 Geo. III. ch. 24. intituled, "An act for the better securing his majesty's dock-yards, magazines, ships, ammunition, and stores," which declares a new offence in America, and deprives the American subject of a constitutional trial by jury of the vicinage, by authorising the trial of any person, charged with the committing any offence described in the said act, out of the realm, to be indicted and tried for the same in any shire or county within the realm.

Also the three acts passed in the last session of parliament, for stopping the port and blocking up the harbour of Boston, for altering the charter and government of Massachusetts-Bay, and that which is entitled, "An act for the better administration of justice, &c."

Also the act passed in the same session for establishing the Roman Catholic religion, in the province of Quebec, abolishing the equitable system of English laws, and erecting a tyranny there, to the great danger, (from so total a dissimilarity of religion, law and government) of the neighbouring British colonies, by the assistance of whose blood and treasure the said country was conquered from France.

Also the act passed in the same session, for the better providing suitable quarters for officers and soldiers in his majesty's service, in North-America.

Also, that the keeping a standing army in several of these colonies, in time of peace, without the consent of the legislature of that colony, in which such army is kept, is against law.

To these grievous acts and measures, Americans cannot submit, but in hopes their fellow subjects in Great-Britain will, on a revision of them, restore us to that state, in which both countries found happiness and prosperity, we have for the present, only resolved to pursue the following peaceable measures: 1. To enter into a non-importation, non-consumption, and non-exportation agreement or association. 2. To prepare an address to the people of Great-Britain, and a memorial to the inhabitants of British America: and 3. To prepare a loyal address to his majesty, agreeable to resolutions already entered into.

A letter being received from several gentlemen in Georgia, was read.

SATURDAY, October 15, 1774.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the plan for carrying into effect the non-importation, &c. and after some time spent on that subject, adjourned till Monday.

MONDAY, October 17, 1774.

Mr. John Dickinson appeared in Congress as a deputy for the province of Pennsylvania, and produced his credentials as follows:

"In Assembly, October 15, 1774. A. M.

"Upon motion by Mr. Rofs,

"Ordered, That Mr. Dickinson be, and he is hereby, added to the committee of deputies, appointed by the late assembly of this province, to attend the general Congress now sitting in the city of Philadelphia on American grievances.

"By order of the House,

"Cba. Moore, Clk. of the Assembly."

The same being approved, Mr. Dickinson took his seat as one of the deputies for the province of Pennsylvania.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the plan of as-

sociation, &c. and after spending the remainder of the day on that subject, adjourned till to-morrow.

TUESDAY, October 18, 1774.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the plan of association, &c. and after sundry amendments, the same was agreed to, and ordered to be transcribed, that it may be signed by the several members.

The committee appointed to prepare an address to the people of Great-Britain, brought in a draught, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table, for the perusal of the members, and to be taken into consideration to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, October 19, 1774.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the address to the people of Great-Britain, and the same being debated by paragraphs, and sundry amendments made, the same was re-committed, in order that the amendments may be taken in.

The committee appointed to prepare a memorial to the inhabitants of these colonies, reported a draught, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Ordered, That this memorial be taken into consideration to-morrow.

THURSDAY, October 20, 1774.

The association being copied, was read and signed at the table, and is as follows:—

WE, his majesty's most loyal subjects, the delegates of the several colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts, Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the three lower counties of Newcaſtle, Kent and Suſſex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, and South-Carolina, deputed to represent them in a continental Congress, held in the city of Philadelphia, on the fifth day of September, 1774, avowing our allegiance to his majesty, our affection and regard for our fellow-subjects in Great-Britain and elsewhere, affected with the deepest anxiety, and most alarming apprehensions, at those grievances and distresses, with which his majesty's American subjects are oppressed, and having taken under our most serious deliberation, the state of the whole continent, find, that the present unhappy situation of our affairs is occasioned by a ruinous system of colony administration, adopted by the British ministry about the year 1763, evidently calculated for enslaving these colonies, and, with them, the British empire. In prosecution of which system, various acts of parliament have been passed, for raising a revenue in America, for depriving the American subjects, in many instances, of the constitutional trial by jury, exposing their lives to danger, by directing a new and illegal trial beyond the seas, for crimes alleged to have been committed in America: And in prosecution of the same system, several late, cru-

el, and oppressive acts have been passed, respecting the town of Boston and the Massachusetts-Bay, and also an act for extending the province of Quebec, so as to border on the western frontiers of these colonies, establishing an arbitrary government therein, and discouraging the settlement of British subjects in that wide extended country; thus, by the influence of civil principles and ancient prejudices, to dispose the inhabitants to act with hostility against the free Protestant colonies, whenever a wicked ministry shall chuse so to direct them.

To obtain redress of these grievances, which threaten destruction to the lives, liberty, and property of his majesty's subjects, in North-America, we are of opinion, that a non-importation, non-consumption, and non-exportation agreement, faithfully adhered to, will prove the most speedy, effectual, and peaceable measure: And, therefore, we do, for ourselves, and the inhabitants of the several colonies, whom we represent, firmly agree and associate, under the sacred ties of virtue, honour and love of our country, as follows:

First, That from and after the first day of December next, we will not import, into British America, from Great-Britain or Ireland, any goods, wares, or merchandize whatsoever, or from any other place, any such goods, wares, or merchandize, as shall have been exported from Great-Britain or Ireland; nor will we, after that day, import any East-India tea from any part of the world; nor any molasses, syrups, paneles, coffee, or pimento, from the British plantations or from Dominica; nor wines from Madeira, or the Western Islands; nor foreign indigo.

Second, We will neither import nor purchase, any slave imported after the first day of December next; after which time, we will wholly discontinue the slave trade, and will neither be concerned in it ourselves, nor will we hire our vessels, nor sell our commodities or manufactures to those who are concerned in it.

Third, As a non-consumption agreement, strictly adhered to, will be an effectual security for the observation of the non-importation, we, as above, solemnly agree and associate, that from this day, we will not purchase or use any tea, imported on account of the East-India company, or any on which a duty hath been or shall be paid; and from and after the first day of March next, we will not purchase or use any East-India tea whatever; nor will we, nor shall any person for or under us, purchase or use any of those goods, wares, or merchandize, we have agreed not to import, which we shall know, or have cause to suspect, were imported after the first day of December, except such as come under the rules and directions of the tenth article hereafter mentioned.

Fourth, The earnest desire we have not to injure our fellow-subjects in Great-Britain, Ireland, or the West-Indies, induces us to suspend a non-exportation, until the tenth day of September, 1775; at which time, if the said acts and parts of acts of the British parliament herein after mentioned, are not repealed, we will not directly or indirectly, export any merchandize or commodity whatsoever

to Great-Britain, Ireland, or the West-Indies, except rice to Europe.

Fifth, Such as are merchants, and use the British and Irish trade, will give orders, as soon as possible, to their factors, agents and correspondents, in Great-Britain and Ireland, not to ship any goods to them, on any pretence whatsoever, as they cannot be received in America; and if any merchant, residing in Great-Britain or Ireland, shall directly or indirectly ship any goods, wares or merchandize, for America, in order to break the said non-importation agreement, or in any manner contravene the same, on such unworthy conduct being well attested, it ought to be made public; and, on the same being so done, we will not, from thenceforth, have any commercial connexion with such merchant.

Sixth, That such as are owners of vessels will give positive orders to their captains, or masters, not to receive on board their vessels any goods prohibited by the said non-importation agreement, on pain of immediate dismissal from their service.

Seventh, We will use our utmost endeavours to improve the breed of sheep, and increase their number to the greatest extent; and to that end, we will kill them as seldom as may be, especially those of the most profitable kind; nor will we export any to the West-Indies or elsewhere; and those of us, who are or may become overstocked with, or can conveniently spare any sheep, will dispose of them to our neighbours, especially to the poorer sort, on moderate terms.

Eighth, We will, in our several stations, encourage frugality, economy, and industry, and promote agriculture, arts and the manufactures of this country, especially that of wool; and will discountenance and discourage every species of extravagance and dissipation, especially all horse-racing, and all kinds of gaming, cock fighting, exhibitions of shews, plays, and other expensive diversions and entertainments; and on the death of any relation or friend, none of us, or any of our families will go into any further mourning-dress, than a black crape or ribbon on the arm or hat, for gentlemen, and a black ribbon and necklace for ladies, and we will discontinue the giving of gloves and scarves at funerals.

Ninth, Such as are venders of goods or merchandize will not take advantage of the scarcity of goods, that may be occasioned by this association, but will sell the same at the rates we have been respectively accustomed to do, for twelve months last past.—And if any vender of goods or merchandize shall sell any such goods on higher terms, or shall, in any manner, or by any device whatsoever, violate or depart from this agreement, no person ought, nor will any of us deal with any such person, or his or her factor or agent, at any time thereafter, for any commodity whatever.

Tenth, In case any merchant, trader, or other person, shall import any goods or merchandize, after the first day of December, and before the first day of February next, the same ought forthwith, at the election of the owner, to be either re-shipped or delivered to the committee of the county or town, wherein they shall be imported,

to be stored at the risk of the importer, until the non-importation agreement shall cease, or be sold under the direction of the committee aforesaid; and in the last-mentioned case, the owner or owners of such goods shall be reimbursed out of the sales, the first cost and charges, the profit, if any, to be applied towards relieving and employing such poor inhabitants of the town of Boston, as are immediate sufferers by the Boston port-bill; and a particular account of all goods so returned, stored, or sold, to be inserted in the public papers; and if any goods or merchandizes shall be imported after the said first day of February, the same ought forthwith to be sent back again, without breaking any of the packages thereof.

Eleventh, That a committee be chosen in every county, city, and town, by those who are qualified to vote for representatives in the legislature, whose business it shall be attentively to observe the conduct of all persons touching this association; and when it shall be made to appear, to the satisfaction of a majority of any such committee, that any person within the limits of their appointment has violated this association, that such majority do forthwith cause the truth of the case to be published in the gazette; to the end, that all such foes to the rights of British-America may be publicly known, and universally condemned as the enemies of American liberty; and thenceforth we respectively will break off all dealings with him or her.

Twelfth, That the committee of correspondence, in the respective colonies, do frequently inspect the entries of their custom-houses, and inform each other, from time to time, of the true state thereof, and of every other material circumstance that may occur relative to this association.

Thirteenth, That all manufactures of this country be sold at reasonable prices, so that no undue advantage be taken of a future scarcity of goods.

Fourteenth, And we do further agree and resolve, that we will have no trade, commerce, dealings or intercourse whatsoever, with any colony or province, in North-America, which shall not accede to, or which shall hereafter violate this association, but will hold them as unworthy of the rights of freemen, and as inimical to the liberties of their country.

And we do solemnly bind ourselves and our constituents, under the ties aforesaid, to adhere to this association, until such parts of the several acts of parliament, passed since the close of the last war, as impose or continue duties on tea, wine, molasses, syrups, panicles, coffee, sugar, plantain, indigo, foreign paper, glass, and painters colours, imported into America, and extend the powers of the admiralty courts beyond their ancient limits, deprive the American subject of trial by jury, authorise the judge's certificate to indemnify the prosecutor from damages, that he might otherwise be liable to, from a trial by his peers, require oppressive security from a claimant of ships or goods seized, before he shall be allowed to defend his property, are repealed.—And until that part of the act of

the 12. G. 3. ch. 24. entitled, "An act for the better securing his majesty's dock-yards, magazines, ships, ammunition, and stores," by which any persons charged with committing any of the offences therein described, in America, may be tried in any shire or county within the realm, is repealed—and until the four acts, passed the last session of parliament, viz. that for stopping the port and blocking up the harbour of Boston—that for altering the charter and government of the Massachusetts-Bay—and that which is entitled, "An act for the better administration of justice, &c."—and that "For extending the limits of Quebec, &c." are repealed. And we recommend it to the provincial conventions, and to the committees in the respective colonies, to establish such farther regulations as they may think proper, for carrying into execution this association.

The foregoing association being determined upon by the Congress, was ordered to be subscribed by the several members thereof; and thereupon, we have hereunto set our respective names accordingly.

In Congress, Philadelphia, October 24.

Signed,

PEYTON RANDOLPH, President.

<i>New-Hampshire,</i>	{ John Sullivan, Nathaniel Folsom.
<i>Massachusetts-Bay,</i>	{ Thomas Cushing, Samuel Adams, John Adams, Robert Treat Paine.
<i>Rhode-Island,</i>	{ Stephen Hopkins, Samuel Ward.
<i>Connecticut,</i>	{ Eliphalet Dyer, Roger Sherman, Silas Deane.
<i>New-York,</i>	{ Isaac Low, John Allop, John Jay, James Duane, William Floyd, Henry Wisner, S. Boerum, Philip Livingston.
<i>New-Jersey,</i>	{ James Kinsey, William Livingston, Stephen Crane, Richard Smith, John De Hart.
<i>Pennsylvania,</i>	{ Joseph Galloway, John Dickinson, Charles Humphreys, Thomas Mifflin, Edward Biddle, John Morton, George Ross.

<i>New-Castle, &c.</i>	{ Cæsar Rodney, Thomas M'Kean, George Read.
<i>Maryland,</i>	{ Matthew Tilghman, Thomas Johnson, William Paca, Samuel Chafe.
<i>Virginia,</i>	{ Richard Henry Lee, George Washington, P. Henry, jun. Richard Eland, Benjamin Harrison, Edmund Pendleton.
<i>North-Carolina,</i>	{ William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, R. Caswell.
<i>South-Carolina,</i>	{ Henry Middleton, Thomas Lynch, Christopher Gadsden, John Rutledge, Edward Rutledge.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the address to the inhabitants of these colonies, and after debate thereon, adjourned till to-morrow.

FRIDAY, October 21, 1774.

The address to the people of Great-Britain being brought in, and the amendments directed being made, the same was approved, and is as follows:

To the people of Great-Britain, from the delegates appointed by the several English colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the lower counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina and South-Carolina, to consider of their grievances in general Congress, at Philadelphia, September 5th, 1774.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW SUBJECTS,

WHEN a nation, led to greatness by the hand of liberty, and possessed of all the glory that heroism, munificence, and humanity can bestow, descends to the ungrateful task of forging chains for her friends and children, and instead of giving support to freedom, turns advocate for slavery and oppression, there is reason to suspect she has either ceased to be virtuous, or been extremely negligent in the appointment of her rulers.

In almost every age, in repeated conflicts, in long and bloody wars, as well civil as foreign, against many and powerful nations, against the open assaults of enemies, and the more dangerous treachery of friends, have the inhabitants of your island, your great and glorious ancestors, maintained their independence, and transmitted the rights of men, and the blessings of liberty, to you their posterity.

Be not surprized, therefore, that we, who are descended from the same common ancestors; that we, whose forefathers participated in all the rights, the liberties, and the constitution, you so justly boast of, and who have carefully conveyed the same fair inheritance to us, guarantied by the plighted faith of government and the most solemn compacts with British sovereigns, should refuse to surrender them to men, who found their claims on no principles of reason, and who prosecute them with a design, that by having our lives and property in their power, they may, with the greatest facility, enslave you.

The cause of America is now the object of universal attention: it has at length become very serious. This unhappy country has not only been oppressed, but abused and misrepresented; and the duty we owe to ourselves and posterity, to your interest, and the general welfare of the British empire, leads us to address you on this very important subject.

Know then, That we consider ourselves, and do insist, that we are and ought to be, as free as our fellow-subjects in Britain, and that no power on earth has a right to take our property from us, without our consent.

That we claim all the benefits secured to the subject by the English constitution, and particularly that inestimable one of trial by jury.

That we hold it essential to English liberty, that no man be condemned unheard, or punished for supposed offences, without having an opportunity of making his defence.

That we think the legislature of Great-Britain is not authorized, by the constitution, to establish a religion, fraught with sanguinary and impious tenets, or, to erect an arbitrary form of government, in any quarter of the globe. These rights we, as well as you, deem sacred; and yet, sacred as they are, they have, with many others, been repeatedly and flagrantly violated.

Are not the proprietors of the soil of Great-Britain, lords of their own property? can it be taken from them, without their consent? will they yield it to the arbitrary disposal of any man, or number of men whatever?—You know they will not.

Why then are the proprietors of the soil of America less lords of their property than you are of yours? or why should they submit it to the disposal of your parliament, or any other parliament, or council in the world, not of their election? can the intervention of the sea, that divides us, cause disparity in rights, or can any reason be given, why English subjects, who live three thousand miles from the royal palace, should enjoy less liberty than those who are three hundred miles distant from it?

Reason looks with indignation on such distinctions, and freemen can never perceive their propriety. And yet, however chimerical and unjust such discriminations are, the parliament assert, that they have a right to bind us, in all cases, without exception, whether we consent or not; that they may take and use our property when and

in what manner they please; that we are pensioners on their bounty, for all that we possess, and can hold it no longer than they vouchsafe to permit. Such declarations we consider as heresies in English politics, and which can no more operate to deprive us of our property, than the interdicts of the pope can divest kings of sceptres, which the laws of the land and the voice of the people have placed in their hands.

At the conclusion of the late war—a war rendered glorious by the abilities and integrity of a minister, to whose efforts, the British empire owes its safety and its fame: At the conclusion of this war, which was succeeded by an inglorious peace, formed under the auspices of a minister, of principles, and of a family unfriendly to the Protestant cause, and inimical to liberty:—We say, at this period, and under the influence of that man, a plan, for enslaving your fellow-subjects in America, was concerted, and has ever since been pertinaciously carrying into execution.

Prior to this æra you were content with drawing from us the wealth produced by our commerce. You restrained our trade in every way that could conduce to your emolument. You exercised unbounded sovereignty over the sea. You named the ports and nations, to which alone our merchandize should be carried, and with whom alone we should trade; and though some of these restrictions were grievous, we nevertheless did not complain; we looked up to you as to our parent state, to which we were bound by the strongest ties, and were happy in being instrumental to your prosperity and your grandeur.

We call upon you yourselves, to witness our loyalty and attachment to the common interest of the whole empire: did we not, in the last war, add all the strength of this vast continent to the force which repelled our common enemy? did we not leave our native shores, and meet disease and death, to promote the success of British arms in foreign climates? did you not thank us for our zeal, and even reimburse us large sums of money, which, you confessed, we had advanced beyond our proportion, and far beyond our abilities? You did.

To what causes, then, are we to attribute the sudden change of treatment, and that system of slavery which was prepared for us at the restoration of peace?

Before we had recovered from the distresses which ever attend war, an attempt was made to drain this country of all its money, by the oppressive stamp-act. Paint, glass, and other commodities, which you would not permit us to purchase of other nations, were taxed; nay, although no wine is made in any country, subject to the British state, you prohibited our procuring it of foreigners, without paying a tax, imposed by your parliament, on all we imported. These and many other impositions were laid upon us most unjustly and unconstitutionally, for the express purpose of raising a revenue.—In order to silence complaint, it was, indeed, provided, that this revenue should be expended in America for its protection and

defence.—These exactions, however, can receive no justification from a pretended necessity of protecting and defending us; they are lavishly squandered on court favourites and ministerial dependents, generally avowed enemies to America, and employing themselves by partial representations, to traduce and embroil the colonies. For the necessary support of government here, we ever were and ever shall be ready to provide. And whenever the exigencies of the state may require it, we shall, as we have heretofore done, cheerfully contribute our full proportion of men and money. To enforce this unconstitutional and unjust scheme of taxation, every fence that the wisdom of our British ancestors had carefully erected against arbitrary power, has been violently thrown down in America, and the inestimable right of trial by jury taken away in cases that touch both life and property.—It was ordained, that whenever offences should be committed in the colonies against particular acts, imposing various duties and restrictions upon trade, the prosecutor might bring his action for the penalties in the courts of admiralty; by which means the subject lost the advantage of being tried by an honest uninfluenced jury of the vicinage, and was subjected to the sad necessity of being judged by a single man, a creature of the crown, and according to the course of a law, which exempts the prosecutor from the trouble of proving his accusation, and obliges the defendant either to evince his innocence, or to suffer. To give this new judicatory the greater importance, and as if with design to protect false accusers, it is further provided, that the judge's certificate of there having been probable causes of seizure and prosecution, shall protect the prosecutor from actions at common law for recovery of damages.

By the course of our law, offences committed in such of the British dominions, in which courts are established, and justice duly and regularly administered, shall be there tried by a jury of the vicinage. There the offenders and the witnesses are known, and the degree of credibility, to be given to their testimony, can be ascertained.

In all these colonies, justice is regularly and impartially administered, and yet, by the construction of some, and the direction of other acts of parliament, offenders are to be taken by force, together with all such persons as may be pointed out as witnesses, and carried to England, there to be tried in a distant land, by a jury of strangers, and subject to all the disadvantages that result from want of friends, want of witnesses, and want of money.

When the design of raising a revenue, from the duties imposed on the importation of tea into America, had in great measure been rendered abortive, by our ceasing to import that commodity, a scheme was concerted by the ministry with the East-India company, and an act passed, enabling and encouraging them to transport and vend it in the colonies. Aware of the danger of giving success to this insidious manœuvre, and of permitting a precedent of taxation, thus to be established among us, various methods were adopted to

elude the stroke. The people of Boston, then ruled by a governor, whom, as well as his predecessor, sir Francis Bernard, all America considers as her enemy, were exceedingly embarrassed. The ships, which had arrived with the tea, were, by his management, prevented from returning.—The duties would have been paid; the cargoes landed and exposed to sale; a governor's influence would have procured and protected many purchasers. While the town was suspended by deliberations on this important subject, the tea was destroyed. Even supposing a trespass was thereby committed, and the proprietors of the tea entitled to damages, the courts of law were open, and judges, appointed by the crown, presided in them.—The East-India company, however, did not think proper to commence any suits, nor did they even demand satisfaction, either from individuals, or from the community in general. The ministry, it seems, officiously made the case their own, and the great council of the nation descended to intermeddle with a dispute about private property. Divers papers, letters, and other unauthenticated *ex parte* evidence were laid before them; neither the persons who destroyed the tea, nor the people of Boston, were called upon to answer the complaint. The ministry, incensed by being disappointed in a favourite scheme, were determined to recur from the little arts of finesse, to open force and unmanly violence. The port of Boston was blocked up by a fleet, and an army placed in the town. Their trade was to be suspended, and thousands reduced to the necessity of gaining subsistence from charity, till they should submit to pass under the yoke, and consent to become slaves, by confessing the omnipotence of parliament, and acquiescing in whatever disposition they might think proper to make of their lives and property.

Let justice and humanity cease to be the boast of your nation! consult your history, examine your records of former transactions; nay, turn to the annals of the many arbitrary states and kingdoms that surround you, and shew us a single instance of men being condemned to suffer for imputed crimes, unheard, unquestioned, and without even the specious formality of a trial; and that, too, by laws made expressly for the purpose, and which had no existence at the time of the fact committed. If it be difficult to reconcile these proceedings to the genius and temper of your laws and constitution, the task will become more arduous, when we call upon our ministerial enemies to justify, not only condemning men untried, and by hearsay, but involving the innocent in one common punishment with the guilty, and for the act of thirty or forty, to bring poverty, distress, and calamity, on thirty thousand souls, and those not your enemies, but your friends, brethren, and fellow-subjects.

It would be some consolation to us, if the catalogue of American oppressions ended here. It gives us pain to be reduced to the necessity of reminding you, that under the confidence reposed in the faith of government, pledged in a royal charter from a British sovereign, the fore-fathers of the present inhabitants of the Massachusetts-Bay, left their former habitations, and established that

great, flourishing, and loyal colony. Without incurring or being charged with a forfeiture of their rights, without being heard, without being tried, without law, and without justice, by an act of parliament, their charter is destroyed, their liberties violated, their constitution and form of government changed : and all this upon no better pretence, than because in one of their towns, a trespass was committed on some merchandize, said to belong to one of the companies, and because the ministry were of opinion, that such high political regulations were necessary, to compel due subordination and obedience to their mandates.

Nor are these the only capital grievances under which we labour. We might tell of dissolute, weak, and wicked governors having been set over us ; of legislatures being suspended for asserting the rights of British subjects ; of needy and ignorant dependents on great men advanced to the seats of justice, and to other places of trust and importance ; of hard restrictions on commerce, and a great variety of lesser evils, the recollection of which is almost lost under the weight and pressure of greater and more poignant calamities.

Now mark the progression of the ministerial plan for enslaving us.

Well aware that such hardy attempts to take our property from us, to deprive us of that valuable right of trial by jury, to seize our persons and carry us for trial to Great-Britain, to blockade our ports, to destroy our charters, and change our forms of government, would occasion, and had already occasioned, great discontent in the colonies, which might produce opposition to these measures ; an act was passed to protect, indemnify, and screen from punishment, such as might be guilty even of murder, in endeavouring to carry their oppressive edicts into execution ; and by another act the dominion of Canada is to be so extended, modelled, and governed, as that by being disunited from us, detached from our interests, by civil as well as religious prejudices, that by their numbers daily swelling with Catholic emigrants from Europe, and by their devotion to administration, so friendly to their religion, they might become formidable to us, and on occasion, be fit instruments, in the hands of power, to reduce the ancient, free Protestant colonies to the same state of slavery with themselves.

This was evidently the object of the act : and in this view, being extremely dangerous to our liberty and quiet, we cannot forbear complaining of it, as hostile to British America. Superadded to these considerations, we cannot help deploring the unhappy condition to which it has reduced the many English settlers, who, encouraged by the royal proclamation, promising the enjoyment of all their rights, have purchased estates in that country.—They are now the subjects of an arbitrary government, deprived of trial by jury, and when imprisoned, cannot claim the benefit of the *habeas corpus* act, that great bulwark and palladium of English liberty :—Nor can we suppress our astonishment, that a British parliament should ever consent to establish in that country, a religion that has deluged your island in blood, and dispersed impiety, bigotry, persecution, murder, and rebellion through every part of the world.

This being a true state of facts, let us beseech you to consider to what end they lead.

Admit that the ministry, by the powers of Britain, and the aid of our Roman Catholic neighbours, should be able to carry the point of taxation, and reduce us to a state of perfect humiliation and slavery : Such an enterprize would doubtless make some addition to your national debt, which already presses down your liberties, and fills you with pensioners and placemen. We presume, also, that your commerce will somewhat be diminished. However, suppose you should prove victorious, in what condition will you then be ? What advantages or what laurels will you reap from such a conquest ?

May not a ministry with the same armies enslave you ?—it may be said, you will cease to pay them,—but remember the taxes from America, the wealth, and we may add the men, and particularly the Roman Catholics of this vast continent, will then be in the power of your enemies ; nor will you have any reason to expect, that after making slaves of us, many among us should refuse to assist in reducing you to the same abject state.

Do not treat this as chimerical.—Know that in less than half a century, the quit-rents reserved to the crown, from the numberless grants of this vast continent, will pour large streams of wealth into the royal coffers, and if to this be added, the power of taxing America at pleasure, the crown will be rendered independent of you for supplies, and will possess more treasure than may be necessary to purchase the remains of liberty in your island.—In a word, take care that you do not fall into the pit that is preparing for us.

We believe there is yet much virtue, much justice, and much public spirit in the English nation.—To that justice we now appeal. You have been told that we are seditious, impatient of government, and desirous of independency. Be assured that these are not facts, but calumnies.—Permit us to be as free as yourselves, and we shall ever esteem a union with you, to be our greatest glory and our greatest happiness ; we shall ever be ready to contribute all in our power to the welfare of the empire ; we shall consider your enemies as our enemies, and your interest as our own.

But, if you are determined that your ministers shall wantonly sport with the rights of mankind—if neither the voice of justice, the dictates of the law, the principles of the constitution, or the suggestions of humanity, can restrain your hands from shedding human blood, in such an impious cause, we must then tell you, that we will never submit to be hewers of wood, or drawers of water, for any ministry or nation in the world.

Place us in the same situation that we were at the close of the last war, and our former harmony will be restored.

But, lest the same supineness, and the same inattention to our common interest, which you have for several years shewn, should continue, we think it prudent to anticipate the consequences.

By the destruction of the trade of Boston, the ministry have endeavoured to induce submission to their measures. The like fate may befall us all. We will endeavour, therefore, to live without trade, and recur, for subsistence, to the fertility and bounty of our native soil, which will afford us all the necessaries, and some of the conveniencies, of life. We have suspended our importation from Great-Britain and Ireland; and, in less than a year's time, unless our grievances should be redressed, shall discontinue our exports to those kingdoms and the West-Indies.

It is with the utmost regret, however, that we find ourselves compelled, by the over-ruling principles of self-preservation, to adopt measures detrimental, in their consequences, to numbers of our fellow-subjects in Great-Britain and Ireland. But, we hope, that the magnanimity and justice of the British nation will furnish a parliament of such wisdom, independence, and public spirit, as may save the violated rights of the whole empire, from the devices of wicked ministers and evil counsellors, whether in or out of office; and thereby restore that harmony, friendship, and fraternal affection, between all the inhabitants of his majesty's kingdoms and territories, so ardently wished for, by every true and honest American.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the memorial to the inhabitants of the British colonies, and the same being debated by paragraphs and amended, was approved, and is as follows:

To the inhabitants of the colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the counties of Newcastle, Kent and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina and South-Carolina:

FRIENDS AND COUNTRYMEN,

We, the delegates appointed, by the good people of these colonies, to meet at Philadelphia, in September last, for the purposes mentioned by our respective constituents, have, in pursuance of the trust reposed in us, assembled, and taken into our most serious consideration, the important matters recommended to the Congress. Our resolutions thereupon will be herewith communicated to you. But, as the situation of public affairs grows, daily, more and more alarming; and, as it may be more satisfactory to you, to be informed by us, in a collective body, than in any other manner, of those sentiments that have been approved, upon a full and free discussion, by the representatives of so great a part of America, we esteem ourselves obliged to add this address to these resolutions.

In every case of opposition by a people to their rulers, or of one state to another, duty to Almighty God, the creator of all, requires that a true and impartial judgment be formed of the measures leading to such opposition; and of the causes by which it has been provoked, or can in any degree be justified, that neither affection on the one hand, nor resentment on the other, being permitted to give a wrong bias to reason, it may be enabled to take a dispassionate

view of all circumstances, and to settle the public conduct on the solid foundations of wisdom and justice.

From councils, thus tempered, arise the surest hopes of the divine favour, the firmest encouragement to the parties engaged, and the strongest recommendation, of their cause, to the rest of mankind.

With minds deeply impressed by a sense of these truths, we have diligently, deliberately, and calmly enquired into, and considered those exertions, both of the legislative and executive power of Great-Britain, which have excited so much uneasiness in America, and have, with equal fidelity and attention, considered the conduct of the colonies. Upon the whole, we find ourselves reduced to the disagreeable alternative of being silent, and betraying the innocent, or of speaking out, and censuring those we wish to revere. In making our choice of these distressing difficulties, we prefer the course dictated by honesty, and a regard for the welfare of our country.

Soon after the conclusion of the late war, there commenced a memorable change in the treatment of these colonies. By a statute, made in the fourth year of the present reign, a time of profound peace, alleging, "the expediency of new provisions and regulations for extending the commerce between Great-Britain and his majesty's dominions in America, and the necessity of raising a revenue, in the said dominions, for defraying the expenses of defending, protecting and securing the same," the commons of Great-Britain undertook to give and grant to his majesty many rates and duties, to be paid in these colonies. To enforce the observance of this act, it prescribes a great number of severe penalties and forfeitures; and, in two sections, makes a remarkable distinction between the subjects in Great-Britain, and those in America. By the one, the penalties and forfeitures incurred there, are to be recovered in any of the king's courts of record, at Westminster, or in the court of exchequer, in Scotland; and by the other, the penalties and forfeitures incurred here, are to be recovered in any court of record, or in any court of admiralty, or vice-admiralty, at the discretion of the informer or prosecutor.

The inhabitants of these colonies, confiding in the justice of Great-Britain, were scarcely allowed sufficient time to receive and consider this act, before another, well known by the name of the Stamp Act, and passed in the fifth year of this reign, engrossed their whole attention. By this statute, the British parliament exercised, in the most explicit manner, a power of taxing us, and extending the jurisdiction of courts of admiralty and vice-admiralty, in the colonies, to matters arising within the body of a county, and directed the numerous penalties and forfeitures, thereby inflicted, to be recovered in the said courts.

In the same year, a tax was imposed upon us, by an act establishing several new fees in the customs. In the next year, the stamp act was repealed: not because it was founded in an erroneous principle,

but, as the repealing act recites, because "the continuance thereof would be attended with many inconveniencies, and might be productive of consequences greatly detrimental to the commercial interest of Great Britain."

In the same year, and by a subsequent act, it was declared, "that his majesty, in parliament, of right, had power to bind the people of these colonies, by statutes, in all cases whatsoever."

In the same year, another act was passed, for imposing rates and duties payable in these colonies. In this statute, the commons, avoiding the terms of giving and granting, "humbly besought his majesty, that it might be enacted, &c." But, from a declaration in the preamble, that the rates and duties were "in lieu of" several others granted by the statute, first before mentioned, for raising a revenue, and from some other expressions, it appears, that these duties were intended for that purpose.

In the next year, [1767] an act was made "to enable his majesty to put the customs, and other duties in America, under the management of commissioners, &c." and the king, thereupon, erected the present expensive board of commissioners, for the express purpose of carrying into execution the several acts relating to the revenue and trade in America.

After the repeal of the stamp act, having again resigned ourselves to our ancient unsuspicious affections for the parent state, and anxious to avoid any controversy with her, in hopes of a favorable alteration, in sentiments and measures, towards us, we did not press our objections against the above-mentioned statutes, made subsequent to that repeal.

Administration, attributing to trifling causes, a conduct that really proceeded from generous motives, were encouraged in the same year [1767] to make a bolder experiment on the patience of America.

By a statute, commonly called the glass, paper, and tea act, made fifteen months after the repeal of the stamp act, the commons of Great-Britain resumed their former language, and again undertook to "give and grant rates and duties, to be paid in these colonies," for the express purpose of "raising a revenue, to defray the charges of the administration of justice, the support of civil government, and defending the king's dominions," on this continent. The penalties and forfeitures, incurred under this statute, are to be recovered in the same manner, with those mentioned in the foregoing acts.

To this statute, so naturally tending to disturb the tranquillity, then universal throughout the colonies, parliament, in the same session, added another no less extraordinary.

Ever since the making the present peace, a standing army has been kept in these colonies. From respect for the mother-country, the innovation was not only tolerated, but the provincial legislatures, generally, made provision for supplying the troops.

The assembly of the province of New-York, having passed an

act of this kind, but differing in some articles, from the directions of the act of parliament made in the fifth year of this reign, the house of representatives, in that colony, was prohibited by a statute, made in the last session mentioned, from making any bill, order, resolution, or vote, except for adjourning or choosing a speaker, until provision should be made, by the said assembly, for furnishing the troops, within that province, not only with all such necessaries as were required by the statute, which they were charged with disobeying, but also with those required by two other subsequent statutes, which were declared to be in force, until the twenty-fourth day of March, 1769.

These statutes of the year 1767, revived the apprehensions and discontents, that had entirely subsided on the repeal of the stamp act; and, amidst the just fears and jealousies, thereby occasioned, a statute was made, in the next year [1768] to establish courts of admiralty and vice-admiralty on a new model, expressly for the end of more effectually recovering of the penalties and forfeitures inflicted by acts of parliament, framed for the purpose of raising a revenue in America, &c.

The immediate tendency of these statutes is, to subvert the right of having a share in legislation, by rendering assemblies useless; the right of property, by taking the money of the colonists, without their consent; the right of trial by jury, by substituting in their place trials in admiralty and vice-admiralty courts, where single judges preside, holding their commissions during pleasure; and unduly to influence the courts of common law, by rendering the judges thereof totally dependant on the crown for their salaries.

These statutes, not to mention many others exceedingly exceptionable, compared, one with another, will be found, not only to form a regular system, in which every part has great force, but also a pertinacious adherence to that system, for subjugating these colonies, that are not, and, from local circumstances, cannot be represented in the house of commons, to the uncontrollable and unlimited power of parliament, in violation of their undoubted rights and liberties, in contempt of their humble and repeated supplications.

This conduct must appear equally astonishing and unjustifiable, when it is considered how unprovoked it has been by any behaviour of these colonies. From their first settlement, their bitterest enemies never fixed on any of them a charge of disloyalty to their sovereign, or disaffection to their mother-country. In the wars she has carried on, they have exerted themselves, whenever required, in giving her assistance; and have rendered her services, which she has publicly acknowledged to be extremely important. Their fidelity, duty and usefulness during the last war, were frequently and affectionately confessed, by his late majesty, and the present king.

The reproaches of those, who are most unfriendly to the freedom of America, are principally levelled against the province of Massachusetts-Bay; but with what little reason, will appear by the follow-

ing declarations of a person, the truth of whose evidence, in their favour, will not be questioned. Governor Bernard thus addresses the two houses of assembly, in his speech, on the 24th of April, 1762,—“The unanimity and dispatch, with which you have complied with the requisitions of his majesty, require my particular acknowledgment; and, it gives me additional pleasure to observe, that you have therein acted under no other influence than a due sense of your duty, both as members of a general empire, and as the body of a particular province.”

In another speech, on the 27th of May, in the same year, he says,—Whatever shall be the event of the war, it must be no small satisfaction to us, that this province hath contributed its full share to the support of it. Every thing that hath been required of it, hath been complied with; and the execution of the powers committed to me, for raising the provincial troops, hath been as full and complete as the grant of them. Never, before, were regiments so easily levied, so well composed, and so early in the field as they have been this year: the common people seemed to be animated with the spirit of the general court, and to vie, with them, in their readiness to serve the king.”

Such was the conduct of the people of the Massachusetts-Bay, during the last war. As to their behaviour, before that period, it ought not to have been forgot in Great-Britain, that not only on every occasion, they had constantly and cheerfully complied with the frequent royal requisitions; but, that chiefly by their vigorous efforts, Nova-Scotia was subdued in 1710, and Louisbourg in 1745.

Foreign quarrels being ended, and the domestic disturbances, that quickly succeeded, on account of the stamp act, being quieted by its repeal, the assembly of Massachusetts-Bay transmitted an humble address of thanks to the king and divers noblemen, and soon after passed a bill for granting compensation to the sufferers in the disorder occasioned by that act.

These circumstances, and the following extracts from governor Bernard's letters, in 1768, to the earl of Shelburne, secretary of state, clearly shew, with what grateful tenderness they strove to bury in oblivion the unhappy occasion of the late disorders, and with what respectful deference they endeavoured to escape other subjects of future controversy. “The house, (says the governor) from the time of opening the session to this day, has shewn a disposition to avoid all dispute with me; every thing having passed with as much good humour as I could desire, except only their continuing to act in addressing the king, remonstrating to the secretary of state, and employing a separate agent. It is the importance of this innovation, without any wilfulness of my own, which induces me to make this remonstrance, at a time when I have a fair prospect of having, in all other business, nothing but good to say of the proceedings of the house.”*

* *January 21, 1768.*

"They have acted, in all things, even in their remonstrance, with temper and moderation; they have avoided some subjects of dispute, and have laid a foundation for removing some causes of former altercation."*

"I shall make such a prudent and proper use of this letter as, I hope, will perfectly restore the peace and tranquillity of this province, for which purpose considerable steps have been made by the house of representatives."†

The vindication of the province of Massachusetts-Bay, contained in these letters, will have greater force, if it be considered, that they were written several months after the fresh alarm given to the colonies, by the statutes passed in the preceding year.

In this place, it seems proper to take notice of the insinuation of one of those statutes, that the interference of parliament was necessary to provide for "defraying the charge of the administration of justice, the support of civil government, and defending the king's dominions in America."

As to the two first articles of expense, every colony had made such provision, as by their respective assemblies, the best judges on such occasions, was thought expedient, and suitable to their several circumstances: respecting the last, it is well known to all men, the least acquainted with American affairs, that the colonies were established, and generally defended themselves, without the least assistance from Great-Britain; and that, at the time of her taxing them, by the statutes before mentioned, most of them were labouring under very heavy debts contracted in the last war. So far were they from sparing their money, when their sovereign, constitutionally, asked their aids, that during the course of that war, parliament repeatedly made them compensations for the expenses of those strenuous efforts, which, consulting their zeal, rather than their strength, they had cheerfully incurred.

Severe as the acts of parliament, before mentioned, are, yet the conduct of administration hath been equally injurious, and irritating, to this devoted country.

Under pretence of governing them, so many new institutions, uniformly rigid and dangerous, have been introduced, as could only be expected from incensed masters, for collecting the tribute, or rather the plunder, of conquered provinces.

By an order of the king, the authority of the commander in chief, and under him, of the brigadier-generals, in time of peace, is rendered supreme in all the civil governments, in America; and thus, an uncontrollable military power is vested in officers, not known to the constitution of these colonies.

A large body of troops, and a considerable armament of ships of war, have been sent to assist in taking their money without their consent.

Expensive and oppressive offices have been multiplied, and the acts of corruption industriously practised to divide and destroy.

* January 30, 1768. † February 2, 1768.

The judges of the admiralty and vice-admiralty courts, are empowered to receive their salaries and fees from the effects to be condemned by themselves.

The commissioners of the customs are empowered to break open and enter houses, without the authority of any civil magistrate, founded on legal information.

Judges of courts of common law, have been made entirely dependant on the crown for their commissions and salaries.

A court has been established at Rhode-Island, for the purposes of taking colonists to England to be tried.

Humble and reasonable petitions, from the representatives of the people, have been frequently treated with contempt: and assemblies have been repeatedly and arbitrarily dissolved.

From some few instances, it will sufficiently appear, on what pretences of justice those dissolutions have been founded.

The tranquillity of the colonies having been again disturbed, as has been mentioned by the statutes of the year 1767, the earl of Hillsborough, secretary of state, in a letter to governor Bernard, dated April 22, 1768, censures the "presumption" of the house of representatives for "resolving upon a measure of so inflammatory a nature, as that of writing to the other colonies, on the subject of their intended representations against some late acts of parliament," then declares, that "his majesty considers this step as evidently tending to create unwarrantable combinations, to excite an unjustifiable opposition to the constitutional authority of parliament:"—and afterwards adds, "It is the king's pleasure, that as soon as the general court is again assembled, at the time prescribed by the charter, you should require of the house of representatives, in his majesty's name, to rescind the resolution which gave birth to the circular letter from the speaker, and to declare their disapprobation of, and dissent to that rash and hasty proceeding."

"If the new assembly should refuse to comply with his majesty's reasonable expectation, it is the king's pleasure, that you should immediately dissolve them."

This letter being laid before the house, and the resolution not being rescinded, according to order, the assembly was dissolved. A letter of a similar nature was sent to other governors to procure resolutions, approving the conduct of the representatives of Massachusetts-Bay, to be rescinded also; and the houses of representatives in other colonies, refusing to comply, assemblies were dissolved.

These mandates spoke a language, to which the ears of English subjects had for several generations been strangers. The nature of assemblies implies a power and right of deliberation; but these commands, prohibiting the exercise of judgment on the propriety of the requisitions made, left to the assemblies only the election between dictated submission, and threatened punishment: A punishment too, founded on no other act, than such as is deemed in-

nocent even in slaves—of agreeing in petitions for redress of grievances, that equally affect all.

The hostile and unjustifiable invasion of the town of Boston, soon followed these events, in the same year; though that town, the province in which it is situated, and all the colonies, from abhorrence of a contest with their parent state, permitted the execution, even of those statutes, against which they so unanimously were complaining, remonstrating, and supplicating.

Administration, determined to subdue a spirit of freedom, which English ministers should have rejoiced to cherish, entered into a monopolizing combination with the East-India company, to send to this continent vast quantities of tea, an article on which a duty was laid by a statute, that, in a particular manner, attacked the liberties of America, and which, therefore, the inhabitants of these colonies had resolved not to import. The cargo sent to South-Carolina was stored, and not allowed to be sold. Those sent to Philadelphia and New-York, were not permitted to be landed. That sent to Boston was destroyed, because governor Hutchinson would not suffer it to be returned.

On the intelligence of these transactions arriving in Great-Britain, the public spirited town last mentioned, was singled out for destruction, and it was determined the province it belongs to, should partake of its fate. In the last session of parliament, therefore, were passed the act for shutting up the port of Boston, indemnifying the murderers of the inhabitants of Massachusetts-Bay, and changing their chartered constitution of government. To enforce these acts, that province is again invaded by a fleet and army.

To mention these outrageous proceedings, is sufficient to explain them. For though it is pretended that the province of Massachusetts-Bay has been particularly disrespectful to Great Britain, yet, in truth, the behaviour of the people, in other colonies, has been an equal "opposition to the power assumed by parliament." No step, however, has been taken against any of the rest. This artful conduct conceals several designs. It is expected that the province of Massachusetts-Bay will be irritated into some violent action, that may displease the rest of the continent, or that may induce the people of Great-Britain to approve the meditated vengeance of an imprudent and exasperated ministry. If the unexampled pacific temper of that province shall disappoint this part of the plan, it is hoped the other colonies will be so far intimidated, as to desert their brethren, suffering in a common cause, and that thus disunited, all may be subdued.

To promote these designs, another measure has been pursued. In the session of parliament, last mentioned, an act was passed for changing the government of Quebec, by which act the Roman Catholic religion, instead of being tolerated, as stipulated by the treaty of peace, is established; and the people there are deprived of a right to an assembly, trials by jury, and the English laws, in civil cases, are abolished, and instead thereof, the French laws are established,

in direct violation of his majesty's promise by his royal proclamation, under the faith of which many English subjects settled in that province, and the limits of that province, are extended so as to comprehend those vast regions, that lie adjoining to the northerly and westerly boundaries of these colonies.

The authors of this arbitrary arrangement flatter themselves, that the inhabitants, deprived of liberty, and artfully provoked against those of another religion, will be proper instruments for assisting in the oppression of such as differ from them in modes of government and faith.

From the detail of facts, herein before recited, as well as from authentic intelligence received, it is clear beyond a doubt, that a resolution is formed, and now carrying into execution, to extinguish the freedom of these colonies, by subjecting them to a despotic government.

At this unhappy period, we have been authorized and directed to meet and consult together, for the welfare of our common country. We accepted the important trust with diffidence, but have endeavoured to discharge it with integrity. Though the state of these colonies would certainly justify other measures than we have advised, yet weighty reasons determined us to prefer those which we have adopted. In the first place, it appeared to us a conduct becoming the character these colonies have ever sustained, to perform, even in the midst of the unnatural distresses and imminent dangers that surround them, every act of loyalty, and therefore, we were induced, once more to offer to his majesty, the petitions of his faithful and oppressed subjects in America. Secondly, regarding with the tender affection, which we knew to be so universal among our countrymen, the people of the kingdom, from which we derive our origin, we could not forbear to regulate our steps by an expectation of receiving full conviction, that the colonists are equally dear to them. Between these provinces and that body subsists the social band, which we ardently wish may never be dissolved, and which cannot be dissolved, until their minds shall become indisputably hostile, or their inattention shall permit those, who are thus hostile, to persist in prosecuting, with the powers of the realm, the destructive measures already operating against the colonists, and, in either case, shall reduce the latter to such a situation, that they shall be compelled to renounce every regard, but that of self-preservation. Notwithstanding the violence with which affairs have been impelled, they have not yet reached that fatal point. We do not incline to accelerate their motion, already alarmingly rapid; we have chosen a method of opposition, that does not preclude a hearty reconciliation with our fellow-citizens, on the other side of the Atlantic. We deeply deplore the urgent necessity, that presses us to an immediate interruption of commerce, that may prove injurious to them. We trust they will acquit us of any unkind intentions towards them, by reflecting, that we are driven by the hands of violence, into unexperienced and unexpected public con-

vulsions, and that we are contending for freedom, so often contended for by our ancestors.

The people of England will soon have an opportunity of declaring their sentiments concerning our cause. In their piety, generosity, and good sense, we repose high confidence; and cannot, upon a review of past events, be persuaded, that they, the defenders of true religion, and the asserters of the rights of mankind, will take part against their affectionate Protestant brethren in the colonies, in favour of our open and their own secret enemies, whose intrigues, for several years past, have been wholly exercised in sapping the foundations of civil and religious liberty.

Another reason, that engaged us to prefer the commercial mode of opposition, arose from an assurance, that the mode will prove efficacious, if it be persisted in with fidelity and virtue; and that your conduct will be influenced by these laudable principles, cannot be questioned. Your own salvation, and that of your posterity, now depends upon yourselves. You have already shewn that you entertain a proper sense of the blessings you are striving to retain. Against the temporary inconveniencies you may suffer from a stoppage of trade, you will weigh in the opposite balance, the endless miseries you and your descendants must endure, from an established arbitrary power. You will not forget the honour of your country, that must, from your behaviour, take its title in the estimation of the world, to glory, or to shame; and you will, with the deepest attention, reflect, that if the peaceable mode of opposition, recommended by us, be broken and rendered ineffectual, as your cruel and haughty ministerial enemies, from a contemptuous opinion of your firmness, insolently predict will be the case, you must inevitably be reduced to chuse, either a more dangerous contest, or a final, ruinous, and infamous submission.

Motives thus cogent, arising from the emergency of your unhappy condition, must excite your utmost diligence and zeal, to give all possible strength and energy to the pacific measures calculated for your relief: But we think ourselves bound in duty, to observe to you, that the schemes agitated against these colonies, have been so conducted, as to render it prudent, that you should extend your views to mournful events, and be, in all respects, prepared for every contingency. Above all things, we earnestly intreat you, with devotion of spirit, penitence of heart, and amendment of life, to humble yourselves and implore the favour of Almighty God: and we fervently beseech his divine goodness, to take you into his gracious protection.

Resolved, That an address be prepared to the people of Quebec, and letters to the colonies of St. John's, Nova-Scotia, Georgia, East and West Florida, who have not deputies to represent them in this Congress.

Ordered, That Mr. Cushing, Mr. Lee, and Mr. Dickinson, be a committee to prepare the above address and letters.

The address to the king being brought in, was read, and after some debate,

Ordered, That the same be re-committed, and that Mr. J. Dickinson, be added to the committee.

Upon motion,

Resolved, That the seizing, or attempting to seize, any person in America, in order to transport such person beyond the sea, for trial of offences, committed within the body of a county in America, being against law, will justify, and ought to meet with resistance and reprisal.

SATURDAY, October 22, 1774.

The hon. Peyton Randolph, Esq; being unable to attend, on account of indisposition, the hon. Henry Middleton, Esq; was chosen to supply his place, as president.

An address from Christopher Tully was read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Ordered, That the journal of the proceedings of the Congress, as corrected, be sent to the press, and printed under the direction of Mr. Biddle, Mr. Dickinson, and the secretary.

Resolved, as the opinion of this Congress, that it will be necessary, that another Congress should be held on the tenth day of May next, unless the redress of grievances, which we have desired, be obtained before that time.—And we recommend, that the same be held at the city of Philadelphia, and that all the colonies, in North-America, chuse deputies, as soon as possible, to attend such Congress.

The committee appointed to prepare a letter to the colonies of St. John's, &c. reported a draught, which was read, and being amended, the same was approved, and is as follows:

Philadelphia, October 22, 1774.

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ THE present critical and truly alarming state of American affairs, having been considered in a general Congress of deputies, from the colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, New-Glaske, Kent, and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, and South-Carolina, with that attention and mature deliberation, which the important nature of the case demands, they have determined, for themselves and the colonies they represent, on the measures contained in the enclosed papers; which measures they recommend to your colony to be adopted with all the earnestness, that a well-directed zeal for American liberty can prompt.

“ So rapidly violent and unjust has been the late conduct of the British administration against the colonies, that either a base and slavish submission, under the loss of their ancient, just, and

constitutional liberty, must quickly take place, or an adequate opposition be formed.

"We pray God to take you under his protection, and to preserve the freedom and happiness of the whole British empire.

By order of the Congress,

HENRY MIDDLETON, President."

MONDAY, October 24, 1774.

The address to the people of Quebec, being brought in, was read, and after some debate, was re-committed.

The committee, to whom the address to the king was re-committed, reported a draught, which was read, and ordered to be taken into consideration to-morrow.

TUESDAY, October 25, 1774.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the address to his majesty, and the same being debated by paragraphs, was, after some amendments, approved and ordered to be engrossed.

Resolved, That the address to the king, be enclosed in a letter to the several colony agents, in order that the same may be by them presented to his majesty; and that the agents be requested to call in the aid of such noblemen and gentlemen as are esteemed firm friends to American liberty.

Ordered, That Mr. Lee, and Mr. Jay, prepare a letter to the agents.

Resolved, That this Congress, in their own names, and in behalf of all those whom they represent, do present their most grateful acknowledgements to those truly noble, honourable, and patriotic advocates of civil and religious liberty, who have so generously and powerfully, though unsuccessfully, espoused and defended the cause of America, both in and out of parliament.

WEDNESDAY, October 26, 1774.

The letter to the agents, being brought in by the committee, was read, and approved as follows:—

Philadelphia, October 26, 1774.

"GENTLEMEN,

"WE give you the strongest proof of our reliance on your zeal and attachment to the happiness of America, and the cause of liberty, when we commit the enclosed paper to your care.

"We desire you will deliver the petition into the hands of his majesty, and after it has been presented, we wish it may be made public through the press, together with the list of grievances. And as we hope for great assistance from the spirit, virtue, and justice of the nation, it is our earnest desire, that the most effectual care be taken, as early as possible, to furnish the trading cities, and manufacturing towns, throughout the united kingdom, with our memorial to the people of Great-Britain.

“ We doubt not, but your good sense and discernment, will lead you to avail yourselves of every assistance, that may be derived from the advice and friendship of all great and good men, who may incline to aid the cause of liberty and mankind.

“ The gratitude of America, expressed in the enclosed vote of thanks, we desire may be conveyed to the deserving objects of it, in the manner you think will be most acceptable to them.

“ It is proposed, that another Congress be held on the tenth of May next, at this place, but in the mean time, we beg the favour of you, gentlemen, to transmit to the speakers of the several assemblies, the earliest information of the most authentic accounts you can collect, of all such conduct and designs of ministry, or parliament, as it may concern America to know.

We are, with unfeigned esteem and regard,

Gentlemen, &c.

By order and in behalf of the Congress,

HENRY MIDDLETON, President.”

To Paul Wentworth, Esq;

Doctor Benj. Franklin,

William Bollen, Esq;

Doctor Arthur Lee,

Thomas Life, Esq;

Edmund Burke, Esq;

Charles Garth, Esq;

The committee, to whom the address to the inhabitants of Quebec was re-committed, reported a draught, which was read, and being debated by paragraphs and amended, was approved, and is as follows :

To the inhabitants of the province of Quebec.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW-SUBJECTS,

WE, the delegates of the colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the counties of New-Castle, Kent, and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, and South-Carolina, deputed by the inhabitants of the said colonies, to represent them in a general Congress, at Philadelphia, in the province of Pennsylvania, to consult together, concerning the best methods to obtain redress of our afflictive grievances; having accordingly assembled, and taken into our most serious consideration, the state of public affairs on this continent, have thought proper to address your province, as a member therein deeply interested.

When the fortune of war, after a gallant and glorious resistance, had incorporated you with the body of English subjects, we rejoiced in the truly valuable addition, both on our own and your account; expecting, as courage and generosity are naturally united, our brave enemies, would become our hearty friends, and that the divine Being, would bless to you the dispensations of his over-rul-

ing providence, by securing to you, and your latest posterity, the inestimable advantages of a free English constitution of government, which it is the privilege of all English subjects to enjoy.

These hopes were confirmed by the king's proclamation, issued in the year 1763, plighting the public faith for your full enjoyment of those advantages.

Little did we imagine that any succeeding ministers would so audaciously and cruelly abuse the royal authority, as to withhold from you the fruition of the irrevocable rights, to which you were thus justly entitled.

But since we have lived to see the unexpected time, when ministers of this flagitious temper, have dared to violate the most sacred compacts and obligations, and as you, educated under another form of government, have artfully been kept from discovering the unspeakable worth of that form you are now undoubtedly entitled to, we esteem it our duty, for the weighty reasons hereinafter mentioned, to explain to you some of its most important branches.

"In every human society," says the celebrated Marquis Beccaria, "there is an effort continually tending to confer on one part the height of power and happiness, and to reduce the other to the extreme of weakness and misery. The intent of good laws is to oppose this effort, and to diffuse their influence universally and equally."

Rulers stimulated by this pernicious "effort," and subjects animated by the just "intent of opposing good laws against it," have occasioned that vast variety of events, that fill the histories of so many nations. All these histories demonstrate the truth of this simple position, that to live by the will of one man, or set of men, is the production of misery to all men.

On the solid foundation of this principle, Englishmen reared up the fabric of their constitution with such a strength, as for ages to defy time, tyranny, treachery, internal and foreign wars: And, as an illustrious author* of your nation, hereafter mentioned, observes,—"They gave the people of their colonies, the form of their own government, and this government carrying prosperity along with it, they have grown great nations in the forests they were sent to inhabit."

In this form, the first grand right, is that of the people having a share in their own government, by their representatives chose by themselves, and in consequence of being ruled by laws which they themselves approve, not by edicts of men, over whom they have no controul. This is a bulwark surrounding and defending their property, so that no portions of it can legally be taken from them, but with their own full and free consent, when they in their judgment deem it just and necessary to give them for public services, and precisely direct the easiest, cheapest, and most equal methods in which they shall be collected.

* *Montesquieu.*

The influence of this right extends still farther. If money is wanted by rulers, who have in any manner oppressed the people, they may retain it, until their grievances are redressed; and thus peaceably procure relief, without trusting to despised petitions, or disturbing the public tranquillity.

The next great right is that of trial by jury. This provides, that neither life, liberty, nor property, can be taken from the possessor, until twelve of his unexceptionable countrymen and peers of his vicinage, who from that neighbourhood may reasonably be supposed to be acquainted with his character, and the characters of the witnesses, upon a fair trial, and full enquiry, face to face, in open court, before as many of the people as chuse to attend, shall pass their sentence upon oath against him; a sentence that cannot injure him, without injuring their own reputation, and probably their interest also; as the question may turn on points, that, in some degree, concern the general welfare; and, if it does not, their verdict may form a precedent, that, on a similar trial of their own, may militate against themselves.

Another right relates merely to the liberty of the person. If a subject is seized and imprisoned, though by order of government, he may, by virtue of this right, immediately obtain a writ, termed a *habeas corpus*, from a judge, whose sworn duty it is to grant it, and thereupon procure any illegal restraint to be quickly enquired into, and redressed.

A fourth right, is that of holding lands by the tenure of easy rents, and not by rigorous and oppressive services, frequently forcing the possessors from their families, and their business, to perform what ought to be done, in all well-regulated states, by men hired for the purpose.

The last right we shall mention regards the freedom of the press. The importance of this consists, besides the advancement of truth, science, morality, and arts in general, in its diffusion of liberal sentiments on the administration of government, its ready communication of thoughts between subjects, and its consequential promotion of union among them, whereby oppressive officers are shamed or intimidated, into more honourable and just modes of conducting affairs.

These are the invaluable rights, that form a considerable part of our mild system of government; that, sending its equitable energy through all ranks and classes of men, defends the poor from the rich, the weak from the powerful, the industrious from the rapacious, the peaceable from the violent, the tenants from the lords, and all from their superiors.

These are the rights, without which a people cannot be free and happy, and under the protecting and encouraging influence of which, these colonies have hitherto so amazingly flourished and increased. These are the rights, a prodigal ministry are now striving, by force of arms, to ravish from us, and which we are, with one mind, resolved never to resign but with our lives.

These are the rights you are entitled to, and ought, at this moment, in perfection, to exercise. And what is offered to you by the late act of parliament in their place? Liberty of conscience in your religion? No. God gave it to you; and the temporal powers with which you have been and are connected, firmly stipulated for your enjoyment of it. If laws, divine and human, could secure it against the despotic caprices of wicked men, it was secured before. Are the French laws in civil cases restored? It seems so. But observe the cautious kindness of the ministers, who pretend to be your benefactors. The words of the statute are—that those “laws shall be the rule, until they shall be varied or altered by any ordinances of the governor and council.” Is the “certainty and lenity of the criminal law of England and its benefits and advantages,” commended in the said statute, and said to “have been sensibly felt by you,” secured to you and your descendants? No. They too are subjected to arbitrary “alterations” by the governor and council; and a power is expressly reserved of appointing “such courts of criminal, civil, and ecclesiastical jurisdiction, as shall be thought proper.” Such is the precarious tenure of mere will, by which you hold your lives and religion. The crown and its ministers, are empowered as far as they could be by parliament, to establish even the inquisition itself among you. Have you an assembly composed of worthy men, elected by yourselves, and in whom you can confide, to make laws for you, to watch over your welfare, and to direct in what quantity, and in what manner, your money shall be taken from you? No. The power of making laws for you is lodged in the governor and council, all of them dependant upon, and removeable at the pleasure of a minister. Besides, another late statute, made without your consent, has subjected you to the impositions of excise; the horror of all free states; thus wresting your property from you by the most odious of taxes, and laying open to insolent tax-gatherers, houses, the scenes of domestic peace and comfort, and called the castles of English subjects in the books of their law. And in the very act for altering your government, and intended to flatter you, you are not authorised to “assess, levy, or apply any rates and taxes, but for the inferior purposes of making roads, and erecting and repairing public buildings, or for other local conveniences, within your respective towns and districts.” Why this degrading distinction? Ought not the property, honestly acquired by Canadians, to be held as sacred as that of Englishmen? Have not Canadians sense enough to attend to any other public affairs, than gathering stones from one place, and piling them up in another? Unhappy people! who are not only injured, but insulted. Nay more!—With such a superlative contempt of your understanding and spirit, has an insolent ministry presumed to think of you, our respectable fellow-subjects, according to the information we have received, as firmly to persuade themselves that your gratitude, for the injuries and insults they have recently offered to you, will engage you to take up arms,

and render yourselves the ridicule and detestation of the world, by becoming tools, in their hands, to assist them in taking that freedom from us, which they have treacherously denied to you; the unavoidable consequence of which attempt, if successful, would be the extinction of all hopes of you or your posterity being ever restored to freedom: For idiocy itself cannot believe, that, when their drudgery is performed, they will treat you with less cruelty than they have us, who are of the same blood with themselves.

What would your countryman, the immortal Montesquieu, have said to such a plan of domination, as has been framed for you? Hear his words, with an intenseness of thought suited to the importance of the subject.—“In a free state, every man, who is supposed a free agent, ought to be concerned in his own government: Therefore the legislative should reside in the whole body of the people, or their representatives.”—“The political liberty of the subject is a tranquillity of mind, arising from the opinion each person has of his safety. In order to have this liberty, it is requisite the government be so constituted, as that one man need not be afraid of another. When the power of making laws and the power of executing them, are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty; because apprehensions may arise, lest the same monarch or senate, should enact tyrannical laws, to execute them in a tyrannical manner.”

“The power of judging should be exercised by persons taken from the body of the people, at certain times of the year, and pursuant to a form and manner prescribed by law. There is no liberty, if the power of judging be not separated from the legislative and executive powers.”

“Military men belong to a profession, which may be useful, but is often dangerous.”—“The enjoyment of liberty, and even its support and preservation, consists in every man’s being allowed to speak his thoughts, and lay open his sentiments.”

Apply these decisive maxims, sanctified by the authority of a name which all Europe reveres, to your own state. You have a governor, it may be urged, vested with the executive powers, or the powers of administration: In him, and in your council, is lodged the power of making laws. You have judges, who are to decide every cause affecting your lives, liberty or property. Here is, indeed, an appearance of the several powers being separated and distributed into different hands, for checks, one upon another; the only effectual mode ever invented by the wit of men, to promote their freedom and prosperity. But scorning to be illuded by a tinselled outside, and exerting the natural sagacity of Frenchmen, examine the specious device, and you will find it, to use an expression of holy writ, “a whited sepulchre,” for burying your lives, liberty and property.

Your judges, and your legislative council, as it is called, are dependant on your governor, and he is dependant on the servant of the crown, in Great-Britain. The legislative, executive and

judging powers are all moved by the nods of a minister. Privileges and immunities last no longer than his smiles. When he frowns, their feeble forms dissolve. Such a treacherous ingenuity has been exerted in drawing up the code lately offered you, that every sentence, beginning with a benevolent pretension, concludes with a destructive power; and the substance of the whole, divested of its smooth words, is—that the crown and its ministers shall be as absolute throughout your extended province, as the despots of Asia or Africa. What can protect your property from taxing edicts, and the rapacity of necessitous and cruel masters? your persons from *letters de cachet*, gaols, dungeons, and oppressive services? your lives and general liberty from arbitrary and unfeeling rulers? We defy you, casting your view upon every side, to discover a single circumstance, promising from any quarter the faintest hope of liberty to you, or your posterity, but from an entire adoption into the union of these colonies.

What advice would the truly great man before-mentioned, that advocate of freedom and humanity, give you, was he now living, and knew that we, your numerous and powerful neighbours, animated by a just love of our invaded rights, and united by the indissoluble bands of affection and interest, called upon you, by every obligation of regard for yourselves and your children, as we now do, to join us in our righteous contest, to make common cause with us therein, and take a noble chance for emerging from a humiliating subjection under governors, intendants and military tyrants, into the firm rank and condition of English freemen, whose custom it is, derived from their ancestors, to make those tremble, who dare to think of making them miserable?

Would not this be the purport of his address? “Seize the opportunity presented to you by Providence itself. You have been conquered into liberty, if you act as you ought. This work is not of man. You are a small people, compared to those who, with open arms, invite you into a fellowship. A moment’s reflection should convince you which will be most for your interest and happiness, to have all the rest of North-America your unalterable friends, or your inveterate enemies. The injuries of Boston have roused and associated every colony, from Nova-Scotia to Georgia. Your province is the only link wanting, to complete the bright and strong chain of union. Nature has joined your country to theirs. Do you join your political interests. For their own sakes they never will desert or betray you. Be assured, that the happiness of a people inevitably depends on their liberty, and their spirit to assert it. The value and extent of the advantages tendered to you are immense. Heaven grant you may not discover them to be blessings after they have bid you an eternal adieu.”

We are too well acquainted with the liberality of sentiment distinguishing your nation, to imagine, that difference of religion will prejudice you against a hearty amity with us. You know, that the transcendent nature of freedom elevates those who unite in her

cause, above all such low-minded infirmities. The Swiss cantons furnish a memorable proof of this truth. Their union is composed of Roman Catholic and Protestant states, living in the utmost concord and peace with one another, and thereby enabled, ever since they bravely vindicated their freedom, to defy and defeat every tyrant that has invaded them.

Should there be any among you, as there generally are in all societies, who prefer the favours of ministers, and their own private interests, to the welfare of their country, the temper of such selfish persons will render them incredibly active in opposing all public-spirited measures, from an expectation of being well rewarded for their sordid industry, by their superiors; but we doubt not you will be upon your guard against such men, and not sacrifice the liberty and happiness of the whole Canadian people and their posterity, to gratify the avarice and ambition of individuals.

We do not ask you, by this address, to commence acts of hostility against the government of our common sovereign. We only invite you to consult your own glory and welfare, and not to suffer yourselves to be inveigled or intimidated by infamous ministers, so far as to become the instruments of their cruelty and despotism; but to unite with us in one social compact, formed on the generous principles of equal liberty, and cemented by such an exchange of beneficial and endearing offices as to render it perpetual. In order to complete this highly desirable union, we submit it to your consideration, whether it may not be expedient for you to meet together, in your several towns and districts, and elect deputies, who afterwards meeting in a provincial Congress, may chuse delegates, to represent your province in the continental Congress, to be held at Philadelphia, on the tenth day of May, 1775.

In this present Congress, beginning on the fifth of the last month, and continued to this day, it has been with universal pleasure, and an unanimous vote, resolved, that we should consider the violation of your rights, by the act for altering the government of your province, as a violation of our own, and that you should be invited to accede to our confederation, which has no other objects than the perfect security of the natural and civil rights of all the constituent members, according to their respective circumstances, and the preservation of a happy and lasting connection with Great-Britain, on the salutary and constitutional principles herein before mentioned. For effecting these purposes, we have addressed an humble and loyal petition to his majesty, praying relief of our and your grievances; and have associated to stop all importations from Great-Britain and Ireland, after the first day of December, and all exportations to those Kingdoms and the West-Indies, after the tenth day of next September; unless the said grievances are redressed.

That Almighty God may incline your minds to approve our equitable and necessary measures, to add yourselves to us, to put your fate, whenever you suffer injuries which you are determined

to oppose, not on the small influence of your single province, but on the consolidated powers of North-America; and may grant to our joint exertions, an event as happy as our cause is just, is the fervent prayer of us, your sincere and affectionate friends and fellow-subjects.

By order of the Congress,

HENRY MIDDLETON, President.

Resolved, That the address of the Congress to the people of Quebec, be signed by the President, and that the Delegates of the province of Pennsylvania superintend the translating, printing, publishing, and dispersing it: And it is recommended by the Congress to the delegates of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, and New-York, to assist in and forward the dispersion of the said address.

Two copies of the address to the king being engrossed and compared, were signed at the table by all the members.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Congress be given to the honourable house of representatives of the colony of Pennsylvania, for their politeness to this Congress; and that the delegates for this colony be a committee to communicate this resolution to the said honourable House.

A true copy,

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

The Congress then dissolved itself.

A LETTER FROM GEN. GAGE, TO PEYTON RANDOLPH, ESQ;

SIR,

Boston, October 20, 1774.

REPRESENTATIONS should be made with candour, and matters stated exactly as they stand. People would be led to believe, from your letter to me of the 10th instant, that works were raised against the town of Boston, private property invaded, the soldiers suffered to insult the inhabitants, and the communication between the town and country, shut up and molested.

Nothing can be farther from the true situation of this place than the above state. There is not a single gun pointed against the town, no man's property has been seized or hurt, except the king's, by the people's destroying straw, bricks, &c. bought for his service. No troops have given less cause for complaint, and greater care was never taken to prevent it; and such care and attention was never more necessary from the insults and provocations daily given to both officers and soldiers. The communication between the town and country has been always free and unmolested, and is so still.

Two works of earth have been raised at some distance from the town, wide off the road, and guns put in them. The remainder of old works, going out of the town, have been strengthened, and guns placed there likewise. People will think differently, whether the hostile preparation throughout the country, and the menaces of blood and slaughter, made this necessary; but I am to do my duty.

It gives me pleasure that you are endeavouring at a cordial reconciliation with the mother country, which, from what has transpired, I have despaired of. Nobody wishes better success to such measures than myself. I have endeavoured to be a mediator, if I could establish a foundation to work upon, and have strongly urged it to people here to pay for the tea, and send a proper memorial to the king, which would be a good beginning on their side, and give their friends the opportunity they seek, to move in their support.

I do not believe that menaces, and unfriendly proceedings, will have the effect which too many conceive. The spirit of the British nation was high when I left England, and such measures will not abate it. But I should hope that decency and moderation here would create the same disposition at home; and I ardently wish that the common enemies to both countries may see, to their disappointment, that these disputes, between the mother country and the colonies, have terminated like the quarrels of lovers, and increased the affection which they ought to bear to each other.

I am, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

THOMAS GAGE.

THE PETITION OF CONGRESS.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

Most gracious Sovereign,

WE, your majesty's faithful subjects, of the colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the counties of New-Castle, Kent and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, and South-Carolina, in behalf of ourselves and the inhabitants of these colonies, who have deputed us to represent them in general Congress, by this our humble petition, beg leave to lay our grievances before the throne.

A standing army has been kept in these colonies, ever since the conclusion of the late war, without the consent of our assemblies; and this army, with a considerable naval armament, has been employed to enforce the collection of taxes.

The authority of the commander in chief, and under him the brigadier-general, has, in time of peace, been rendered supreme in all the civil governments in America.

The commander in chief of all your majesty's forces in North-America, has, in time of peace, been appointed governor of a colony.

The charges of usual offices have been greatly increased; and new, expensive, and oppressive offices have been multiplied.

The judges of admiralty and vice-admiralty courts, are empowered to receive their salaries and fees from the effects condemned by themselves.

The officers of the customs are empowered to break open and en-

ter houses, without the authority of any civil magistrate, founded on legal information.

The judges of courts of common law have been made entirely dependant on one part of the legislature for their salaries, as well as for the duration of their commissions.

Councillors, holding their commissions during pleasure, exercise legislative authority.

Humble and reasonable petitions, from the representatives of the people, have been fruitless.

The agents of the people have been discountenanced, and governors have been instructed to prevent the payment of the salaries.

Assemblies have been repeatedly and injuriously dissolved.

Commerce has been burthened with many useless and oppressive restrictions.

By several acts of parliament made in the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth years of your majesty's reign, duties are imposed on us, for the purpose of raising a revenue; and the powers of admiralty and vice-admiralty courts are extended beyond their ancient limits, whereby our property is taken from us without our consent, the trial by jury, in many civil cases, is abolished, enormous forfeitures are incurred for slight offences, vexatious informers are exempted from paying damages, to which they are justly liable, and oppressive security is required from owners before they are allowed to defend their right.

Both houses of parliament have resolved, that colonists may be tried in England for offences alledged to have been committed in America, by virtue of a statute passed in the thirty-fifth year of Henry the eighth; and, in consequence thereof, attempts have been made to enforce that statute.

A statute was passed in the twelfth year of your majesty's reign, directing, that persons charged with committing any offence therein described, in any place out of the realm, may be indicted and tried for the same, in any shire or county within the realm, whereby inhabitants of these colonies may, in sundry cases, by that statute made capital, be deprived of a trial by their peers of the vicinage.

In the last session of parliament, an act was passed for blocking up the harbour of Boston; another empowering the governor of the Massachusetts-Bay, to send persons indicted for murder in that province, to another colony, or, even to Great-Britain for trial, whereby such offenders may escape legal punishment; a third for altering the chartered constitution of government in that province; and a fourth for extending the limits of Quebec, abolishing the English and restoring the French laws, whereby great numbers of British Frenchmen are subjected to the latter, and establishing an absolute government and the Roman Catholic religion throughout those vast regions, that border on the westerly and northerly boundaries of the free, Protestant English settlements; and a fifth, for the better providing suitable quarters for officers and soldiers, in his majesty's service, in North-America.

To a sovereign, who glories in the name of Britain, the bare recital of these acts must, we presume, justify the loyal subjects, who fly to the foot of his throne, and implore his clemency for protection against them.

From this destructive system of colony administration, adopted since the conclusion of the last war, have flowed those distresses, dangers, fears and jealousies, that overwhelm your majesty's dutiful colonists with affliction: and we defy our most subtle and inveterate enemies to trace the unhappy differences between Great-Britain and these colonies, from an earlier period, or from other causes, than we have assigned. Had they proceeded on our part from a restless levity of temper, unjust impulses of ambition, or artful suggestions of seditious persons, we should merit the opprobrious terms frequently bestowed upon us by those we reverence. But so far from promoting innovations, we have only opposed them; and can be charged with no offence, unless it be one to receive injuries, and be sensible of them.

Had our Creator been pleased to give us existence in a land of slavery, the sense of our condition might have been mitigated by ignorance and habit. But, thanks be to his adorable goodness, we were born the heirs of freedom, and ever enjoyed our right under the auspices of your royal ancestors, whose family was seated on the British throne, to rescue and secure a pious and gallant nation from the popery and despotism of a superstitious and inexorable tyrant. Your majesty, we are confident, justly rejoices, that your title to the crown is thus founded on the title of your people to liberty; and, therefore, we doubt not but your royal wisdom must approve the sensibility, that teaches your subjects anxiously to guard the blessing, they received from divine Providence, and thereby to prove the performance of that compact, which elevated the illustrious house of Brunswick to the imperial dignity it now possesses.

The apprehension of being degraded into a state of servitude, from the pre-eminent rank of English freemen, while our minds retain the strongest love of liberty, and clearly fore-see the miseries preparing for us and our posterity, excites emotions in our breasts, which though we cannot describe, we should not wish to conceal. Feeling as men, and thinking as subjects in the manner we do, silence would be disloyalty. By giving this faithful information, we do all in our power to promote the great objects of your royal care, the tranquillity of your government, and the welfare of your people.

Duty to your majesty, and regard for the preservation of ourselves and our posterity, the primary obligations of nature and society, command us to entreat your royal attention; and as your majesty enjoys the signal distinction of reigning over freemen, we apprehend the language of freemen cannot be displeasing. Your royal indignation, we hope, will rather fall on those designing and dangerous men, who daringly interposing themselves between your royal person and your faithful subjects, and for several years past incessantly employed to dissolve the bonds of society, by abusing your majesty's au-

thority, misrepresenting your American subjects, and prosecuting the most desperate and irritating projects of oppression, have at length compelled us, by the force of accumulated injuries, too severe to be any longer tolerable, to disturb your majesty's repose by our complaints.

These sentiments are extorted from hearts, that much more willingly would bleed in your majesty's service. Yet so greatly have we been misrepresented, that a necessity has been alledged of taking our property from us, without our consent, "to defray the charge of the administration of justice, the support of civil government, and the defence, protection, and security of the colonies." But we beg leave to assure your majesty, that such provision has been, and will be made for defraying the two first articles, as has been and shall be judged, by the legislatures of the several colonies, just and suitable to their respective circumstances: and, for the defence, protection, and security of the colonies, their militias, if properly regulated, as they earnestly desire may immediately be done, would be fully sufficient, at least in times of peace; and, in case of war, your faithful colonists will be ready and willing, as they ever have been, when constitutionally required, to demonstrate their loyalty to your majesty, by exerting their most strenuous efforts in granting supplies and raising forces. Yielding to no British subjects in affectionate attachment to your majesty's person, family, and government; we too dearly prize the privilege of expressing that attachment by those proofs, that are honourable to the prince who receives them, and to the people who give them, ever to resign it to any body of men upon earth.

Had we been permitted to enjoy, in quiet, the inheritance left us by our fore-fathers, we should, at this time, have been peaceably, cheerfully, and usefully employed in recommending ourselves, by every testimony of devotion, to your majesty, and of veneration to the state, from which we derive our origin. But though now exposed to unexpected and unnatural scenes of distress by a contention with that nation, in whose parental guidance on all important affairs, we have hitherto, with filial reverence, constantly trusted, and therefore can derive no instruction in our present unhappy and perplexing circumstances from any former experience: yet, we doubt not, the purity of our intention, and the integrity of our conduct, will justify us at that grand tribunal, before which all mankind must submit to judgment.

We ask but for peace, liberty, and safety. We wish not a diminution of the prerogative, nor do we solicit the grant of any new right in our favour. Your royal authority over us, and our connection with Great-Britain, we shall always carefully and zealously endeavour to support and maintain.

Filled with sentiments of duty to your majesty, and of affection to our parent state, deeply impressed by our education, and strongly confirmed by our reason, and anxious to evince the sincerity of these dispositions, we present this petition only to obtain redress of

grievances and relief from fears and jealousies, occasioned by the system of statutes and regulations adopted since the close of the late war, for raising a revenue in America—extending the powers of courts of admiralty and vice-admiralty—trying persons in Great-Britain for offences alleged to be committed in America—affecting the province of Massachusetts-Bay—and altering the government and extending the limits of Quebec: by the abolition of which system, the harmony between Great-Britain and these colonies, so necessary to the happiness of both, and so ardently desired by the latter, and the usual intercourses will be immediately restored. In the magnanimity and justice of your majesty and parliament, we confide for a redress of our other grievances, trusting, that, when the causes of our apprehensions are removed, our future conduct will prove us not unworthy of the regard we have been accustomed, in our happier days, to enjoy. For, appealing to that being who searches, thoroughly, the hearts of his creatures, we solemnly profess, that our councils have been influenced by no other motive, than a dread of impending destruction.

Permit us, then, most gracious sovereign, in the name of all your faithful people in America, with the utmost humility, to implore you, for the honour of almighty God, whose pure religion our enemies are undermining; for your glory, which can be advanced only by rendering your subjects happy, and keeping them united; for the interests of your family depending on an adherence to the principles that enthroned it; for the safety and welfare of your kingdoms and dominions, threatened with almost unavoidable dangers and distresses, that your majesty, as the loving father of your whole people, connected by the same bonds of law, loyalty, faith and blood, though dwelling in various countries, will not suffer the transcendent relation formed by these ties to be farther violated, in uncertain expectation of effects, that, if attained, never can compensate for the calamities, through which they must be gained.

We, therefore, most earnestly beseech your majesty, that your royal authority and interposition may be used for our relief, and that a gracious answer may be given to this petition.

That your majesty may enjoy every felicity through a long and glorious reign, over loyal and happy subjects, and that your descendants may inherit your prosperity and dominions till time shall be no more, is, and always will be, our sincere and fervent prayer.

JOURNALS OF CONGRESS.

WEDNESDAY, May 10, 1775.

A Number of delegates from the colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware Counties, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, and South-Carolina, agreeable to their appointment and orders, received from their respective colonies, met at Philadelphia, and being convened in the state-house, proceeded to the choice of a president; when,

Upon motion, The hon. Peyton Randolph was unanimously chosen president.

After the president was seated,

Mr. Charles Thomson was unanimously chosen secretary.

Andrew McNeare was also chosen door-keeper, and William Shed, messenger.

Agreed, That the rev. Mr. Duche be requested to open the Congress with prayers to-morrow morning; and that Mr. Willing, Mr. Sullivan, and Mr. Bland, be a committee to wait on Mr. Duche, and acquaint him with the request of the Congress.

Adjourned till to-morrow, at 11 o'clock.

THURSDAY, May 11, 1775, A. M.

Agreeable to the order of yesterday, the Congress was opened with prayers, by the rev. Mr. Duche. After prayers, the Congress, according to adjournment, proceeded to business.

The delegates from the several colonies, produced their respective credentials, which were read and approved, as follows:

New-Hampshire. At the convention of deputies, appointed by the several towns in the province aforesaid, held at Exeter, on the 25th day of January, 1775,

The hon. John Wentworth, Esq; in the chair.

Voted, That John Sullivan and John Langdon, Esqrs; be delegated to represent this province, in the continental Congress, proposed to be held at Philadelphia, on the tenth day of May next, and that they and each of them, in the absence of the other, have full and ample power, in behalf of this province, to consent and agree to all measures, which said Congress shall deem necessary, to obtain redress of American grievances.

True copy attested,

Masbeck Weare, Clerk to the Convention.

Province of the Massachusetts-Bay, in provincial Congress,
Cambridge, Dec. 5, 1774.

Resolved, That the proceedings of the American continental Congress, held at Philadelphia, on the 5th day of September last, and reported by the honourable delegates from this colony, have, with the deliberation due to their high importance, been considered by us; and the American bill of rights, therein contained, appears to be formed with the greatest ability and judgment, to be founded on the immutable laws of nature and reason, the principles of the English constitution, and respective charters and constitutions of the colonies, and to be worthy of their most vigorous support, as essentially necessary to liberty; likewise the ruinous and iniquitous measures, which, in violation of these rights, at present convulse and threaten destruction to America, appear to be clearly pointed out, and judicious plans adopted for defeating them.

Resolved, That the most grateful acknowledgements are due to the truly honourable and patriotic members of the continental Congress, for their wise and able exertions in the cause of American liberty; and this Congress, in their own names, and in behalf of this colony, do hereby, with the utmost sincerity, express the same.

Resolved, That the hon. John Hancock, the hon. Thomas Cushing, Esqrs; Mr. Samuel Adams, John Adams, and Robert Treat Paine, Esqrs; or any three of them, be, and they are hereby appointed and authorized to represent this colony, on the tenth of May next, or sooner if necessary, at the American Congress, to be held at Philadelphia, with full power, with the delegates from the other American colonies, to concert, agree upon, direct and order such further measures, as shall to them appear to be best calculated for the recovery and establishment of American rights and liberties, and for restoring harmony between Great-Britain and the colonies.

A true copy of record,
Benjamin Lincoln, Secretary.

In provincial Congress, Cambridge, February 6, 1775.

Resolved, That the hon. John Hancock, the hon. Thomas Cushing, Esqrs; Mr. Samuel Adams, John Adams, and Robert Treat Paine, Esqrs; appointed by the last provincial Congress to represent this colony, on the tenth of May next, or sooner if necessary, at the American Congress, to be held at Philadelphia, be, and they are hereby authorized and empowered, with the delegates from the other American colonies, to adjourn from time to time, and place to place, as shall be judged necessary, and to continue in being, as delegates, for this colony, until the thirty-first day of December next ensuing, and no longer.

A true copy of record,
Benjamin Lincoln, Secretary.

In the House of Representatives of the colony of Connecticut,
November 3, A. D. 1774.

This house proceeded to nominate, chuse, and appoint delegates, to attend the general Congress, to be holden at Philadelphia, on the tenth day of May next; and made choice of the hon. Elisha Dyer, hon. Roger Sherman, Silas Deane, * Titus Hinman, and * Jonathan Sturges, Esqrs; to be their delegates, any three of whom are authorized and empowered to attend said Congress, in behalf of this colony, to join, consult and advise with the delegates of the other colonies in British America, on proper measures for advancing the best good of the colonies.

William Williams, Speaker.

A true copy, extracted from the journals of the house,

Attested, Richard Law, Clerk.

At a provincial convention formed of deputies from the city and county of New-York, the city and county of Albany, and the counties of Dutchess, Ulster, Orange, West-Chester, Kin's, and Suffolk, held at the city of New-York, the 22d day of April, 1775, for the purpose of appointing delegates to represent the colony of New-York, in the next continental Congress, to be held at Philadelphia, on the tenth of May next, Philip Livingston, James Duane, John Alsup, * John Jay, Simon Boerum, William T. M. * Henry Wisner, * Philip Schuyler, * George Cliston, Lewis Morris, * Francis Lewis, and * Robert R. Livingston, jun. Esqs; were unanimously elected delegates, to represent this colony at such Congress, with full power to them, or any five of them, to meet the delegates from the other colonies, and to concert and determine upon such measures as shall be judged most essential for the preservation and re-establishment of American rights and privileges, and for the restoration of harmony between Great-Britain and the colonies.

Signed, Leonard Lifpenard, Isaac Roosevelt, Abraham Walton, Alexander McDougall, and twenty-four others.

We, the subscribers, do, in behalf of ourselves, and those freeholders of Queen's county, at whose request we attended the convention, signify our assent to, and approbation of the above delegation.

Signed, John Fulman, Zebulon Williams, Jacob Blackwell, Joseph Robinson.

New-Jersey. In assembly, Perth-Amboy, Tuesday, January 24, 1775.

Resolved unanimously, That James Kintley, Stephen Crane, William Livingston, John de Hart, and Richard Smith, Esqrs; or any three of them, be, and they are hereby, appointed to attend the continental Congress of the colonies, intended to be held at the city of Philadelphia, in May next, or at any other time and place; and that they report their proceedings to the next session of general assembly.

A true copy from the journals,

Richard Smith, Clerk of the Assembly.

Note—All the members attended, except those marked thus *

Pennsylvania. In Assembly, December 15, 1774, A. M.

Upon motion,

Resolved, N. C. D. That the honourable Edward Biddle, John Dickinson, Thomas Mifflin, Charles Humphreys, John Morton, and George Ross, Esqrs; be, and they are hereby, appointed deputies on the part of this province, to attend the general Congress, proposed to be held at the city of Philadelphia, on the tenth day of May next; and that they or any four of them do meet the said Congress accordingly, unless the present grievances of the American colonies shall before that time be redressed.

Extract from the journals,

Charles Moore, Clerk of the Assembly.

In Assembly, May 6, 1775, A. M.

Resolved, N. C. D. That Benjamin Franklin, the hon. Thomas Willing, and * James Willon, Esqrs; be, and they are hereby added to the deputies appointed by this house, to attend the continental Congress, expected to meet the tenth instant, in this city.

Extract from the journals,

Charles Moore, Clerk of the Assembly.

Lower Counties on Delaware. In Assembly, Thursday, March 16, 1775, A. M.

On motion,

Resolved, N. C. D. That the honourable Cæsar Rodney, Thomas M'Kean, and George Read, Esqrs; be, and they are hereby appointed and authorized to represent this government at the American Congress, proposed to be held at the city of Philadelphia, on the tenth day of May next, or at any other time or place, with full power to them, or any two of them, together with the delegates from the other American colonies, to concert and agree upon such farther measures, as shall appear to them best calculated for the accommodation of the unhappy differences between Great-Britain and the colonies, on a constitutional foundation, which the house most ardently wish for, and that they report their proceedings to the next sessions of general assembly.

True copy of minutes of assembly,

David Thomson, Clerk to the Assembly.

Maryland. At a meeting of the deputies, appointed by the several counties of the province of Maryland, at the city of Annapolis, by adjournment, on the 8th of December, 1774, and continued till the 12th day of the same month,

Resolved unanimously, That the honourable Matthew Tilghman, Thomas Johnston, junior, * Robert Goldsborough, William Paca, Samuel Chase, John Hall, and * Thomas Stone, Esqrs; or any three or more of them, be delegates to represent this province, in the next continental Congress; and that they, or any three or more of them, have full and ample power to consent and agree to all measures, which such Congress shall deem necessary and effectual to obtain a redress of American grievances; and this province bind themselves to execute, to the utmost of their power, all resolutions

which the said Congress may adopt. And further, if the said Congress shall think necessary to adjourn, we do authorize our said delegates, to represent and act for this province, in any one Congress, to be held by virtue of such adjournment.

Signed by order,

John Duckett, Clerk.

Virginia. At a convention of delegates for the counties and corporations in the colony of Virginia, at the town of Richmond, in the county of Henrico, on Monday, the 20th of March, 1775;

The convention proceeded to the election of delegates, by ballot, to represent this colony in general Congress, to be held at the city of Philadelphia, on the tenth day of May next, when the honourable Peyton Randolph, George Washington, * Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee, Edmund Pendleton, Benjamin Harrison, and Richard Bland, Esqrs; were chosen for that purpose.

Peyton Randolph, President.

John Tazewell, Clerk of the Convention.

North-Carolina. At a general meeting of delegates of the inhabitants of this province, in convention, at Newbern, the 5th day of April, 1775;

Present: The honourable John Harvey, Esq; moderator, and sixty-eight members:

On motion,

Resolved, That William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, and Richard Caswell, Esqrs; be, and they are hereby appointed delegates to attend the general Congress, to be held at Philadelphia, on the tenth day of May next, or at any other time and place that shall be appointed for that purpose, and they are hereby invested with such powers as may make any acts done by them, or any of them, or consent given in behalf of this province, obligatory, in honour, upon every inhabitant thereof.

A true copy from the minutes,

John Harvey, Moderator.

Attested by *Andrew Knox, Clerk.*

In the Assembly, 7th of April, 1775.

Resolved, That the house do highly approve of the proceedings of the continental Congress, lately held at Philadelphia, and that they are determined, as members of the community in general, that they will strictly adhere to the said resolutions, and will use what influence they have, to induce the same observance in every individual of this province.

This house having received information, that William Hooper, Joseph Hewes, and Richard Caswell, Esquires, were appointed by the convention, held at Newbern, as delegates to attend the meeting of the continental Congress, soon to be held at Philadelphia:

Resolved, That the house approve of the choice made by the said convention.

A true copy from the journal of the House of assembly,

James Green, junior, Clerk.

South-Carolina. In the Commons House of Assembly, Friday, February 3, 1775.

Whereas the continental Congress, held at the city of Philadelphia, in September last, amongst other things, recommended to the several colonies in North-America, to chuse deputies as soon as possible, to hold another Congress at the same place, on the tenth day of May next, and this house being fully satisfied with the conduct and fidelity of their late deputies at the Congress, do hereby nominate and appoint the honourable Henry Middleton, Esquire, Thomas Lynch, Christopher Gadsden, John Rutledge, and Edward Rutledge, Esquires, deputies for and in behalf of this colony, to meet the deputies appointed, or to be appointed, on the part and behalf of the other colonies, at the city of Philadelphia, or any other place, that shall be agreed on by the said deputies in general Congress, with full power and authority to concert, agree to, and effectually prosecute such measures, as in the opinion of the said deputies, and the deputies to be assembled, shall be most likely to obtain a redress of American grievances.

Resolved, That the deputies hereby appointed on the part and behalf of this colony, are authorised and empowered to agree, that the continental Congress may meet at any future time, and at such place, as shall be agreed on, and to adjourn from time to time; provided it do not exceed nine months from the date of their meeting in May next.

Attested,

Thomas Farr, junior, Clerk.

Extract from the journals of the provincial Congress of South-Carolina, published by order of the Congress, the 11th of January, 1775.

Resolved, That the honourable Henry Middleton, Esquire, Thomas Lynch, Christopher Gadsden, John Rutledge, and Edward Rutledge, Esquires, or any three of them, be, and they are hereby appointed and authorised to represent this colony, on the tenth day of May next, or sooner, if necessary, at the American Congress, to be held at Philadelphia, or elsewhere; with full power to concert, agree upon, direct and order such further measures, as, in the opinion of the said deputies, and the delegates of the other American colonies to be assembled, shall appear to be necessary for the recovery and establishment of American rights and liberties, and for restoring harmony between Great-Britain and her colonies.

Upon motion,

Resolved, That the thanks of the Congress be given to the rev. Mr. Duche, for performing divine service, agreeable to the desire of the Congress, and for his excellent prayer so well adapted to the present occasion.

Ordered, That Mr. Bland, Mr. Willing, and Mr. Sullivan, be a committee to wait upon Mr. Duche, and return the thanks of the Congress, agreeable to the above resolution.

Upon motion,

Resolved, That the doors be kept shut, during the time of busi-

ness, and that the members consider themselves under the strongest obligations of honour to keep the proceedings secret, until the majority shall direct them to be made public.

A circular letter from the agents, William Bollen, Benjamin Franklin, and Arthur Lee, Esquires, directed to the speakers of several assemblies, and sundry papers therein referred to, were laid before the Congress and read; the letter is as follows:

SIR,

London, February 5, 1775.

“ Our last letter informed you, that the king had declared his intentions of laying the petition before his two houses of parliament. It has accordingly been laid before each house, but undistinguished among a variety of letters and other papers from America.

“ A motion made by lord Chatham, to withdraw the troops from Boston, as the first step towards a conciliating plan, was rejected; and the ministry have declared in both houses the determination to enforce obedience to all the late laws. For this purpose, we understand, that three regiments of foot, one of dragoons, seven hundred marines, six sloops of war, and two frigates, are now under orders for America.

“ We think it proper to inform you, that your cause was well defended by a considerable number of good and wise men in both houses of parliament, though far from being a majority: and that many of the commercial and manufacturing parts of the nation, concerned in the American trade, have presented, or, as we understand, are preparing to present, petitions to parliament, declaring their great concern, for the present unhappy controversies with America, and praying expressly, or in effect, for healing measures, as the proper means of preserving their commerce, now greatly suffering or endangered. But the treatment the petitions, already presented, have hitherto received, is such, as, in our opinion, can afford you no reliance on the present relief through their means.

“ As soon as we learnt that the petition of the Congress was before the house of commons, we thought it our duty to support it, if we might be permitted so to do, as there was no other opportunity for the numerous inhabitants of the colonies to be heard in defence of their rights: accordingly, we joined in a petition for that purpose. Sir George Saville kindly undertook to present it. But, on previously opening the purport of it, as the order is, a debate arose on the propriety of receiving it, and on a division, it was rejected by a great majority.

“ The following extract of a letter from general Gage to lord Dartmouth, as laid before parliament, we think it our duty to transmit, viz.

“ Dec. 15, 1774. Your lordship's idea of disarming certain provinces, would doubtless be consistent with prudence and safety, but it neither is, nor has been practicable, without having recourse to force, and being masters of the country.”

“ It was thrown out in debate by a principal member of admini-

stration, that it would be proper to alter the charters of Connecticut and Rhode Island.

“ Inclosed, we send you a copy of the resolutions passed in a committee of the whole house, on Thursday last, which are to be reported on Monday. It is said that these resolutions are to be the foundation of several bills to be brought in, but the purport of those bills we have not yet learnt with sufficient certainty.

“ We send you likewise, a copy of lord Chatham’s first motion in the house of lords, and of his plan of a bill for settling the troubles between Great-Britain and the colonies; both which were rejected on the first reading.

With great respect, we are, sir,

Your most obedient, humble servants,

(Signed)

*William Bollen,
Benjamin Franklin,
Arthur Lee.”*

The papers referred to in the foregoing letter, being published in the newspapers, it is not necessary to insert them.

Mr. Hancock laid before the Congress a letter from the provincial Congress of Massachusetts-Bay, together with certain resolutions formed by said Congress, and a copy of a letter, sent by said Congress to their agent in England, and an address to the inhabitants of Great-Britain, on the late engagement between the troops under general Gage, and the inhabitants of Massachusetts-Bay; also a number of depositions, duly attested, relative to the commencement of said hostilities, all which were read, and are as follows :

In provincial Congress, Watertown, May 3, 1775.

To the honourable American continental Congress, to be convened at Philadelphia, on the tenth of May instant.

May it please your honours,

The Congress of this colony, impressed with the deepest concern for their country, under the present critical and alarming state of its public affairs, beg leave, with the utmost submission, whilst acting in support of the cause of America, to request the direction and assistance of your respectable assembly.

The inclosed packet, containing copies of the depositions, which we have dispatched for London, also an address to the inhabitants of Great-Britain, and a letter to our colony agent, Benjamin Franklin, Esq; are humbly submitted to your consideration.

The sanguinary zeal of the ministerial army, to ruin and destroy the inhabitants of this colony, in the opinion of this Congress, hath rendered the establishment of an army indispensably necessary; we have accordingly passed an unanimous resolve for thirteen thousand six hundred men, to be forthwith raised by this colony, and proposals are made by us to the Congress of New-Hampshire, and

governments of Rhode-Island and Connecticut colonies, for furnishing men in the same proportion.

The sudden exigency of our public affairs, precluded the possibility of waiting for your direction in these important measures, more especially, as a considerable reinforcement from Great-Britain is daily expected in this colony, and we are now reduced to the sad alternative of defending ourselves by arms, or submitting to be slaughtered.

With the greatest deference, we beg leave to suggest, that a powerful army, on the side of America, hath been considered, by this Congress, as the only means left to stem the rapid progress of a tyrannical ministry. Without a force, superior to our enemies, we must reasonably expect to become the victims of their relentless fury. With such a force, we may still have hopes of seeing an immediate end put to the inhuman ravages of mercenary troops in America, and the wicked authors of our miseries, brought to condign punishment, by the just indignation of our brethren in Great-Britain.

We hope that this colony will, at all times, be ready to spend and be spent in the cause of America. It is, nevertheless, a misfortune greatly operating to its disadvantage, that it has a great number of sea-port towns, exposed to the approach of the enemy by sea; from many of which, the inhabitants have removed, and are removing their families and effects, to avoid destruction from ships of war. These, we apprehend, will be generally distressed from want of subsistence, and disabled from contributing aid for supporting the forces of the colony; but we have the greatest confidence in the wisdom and ability of the continent to support us, so far as it shall appear necessary for supporting the common cause of the American colonies.

We also inclose several resolves for empowering and directing our receiver-general to borrow the sum of one hundred thousand pounds, lawful money, and to issue his notes for the same; it being the only measures, which we could have recourse to, for supporting our forces; and we request your assistance in rendering our measures effectual, by giving our notes a currency through the continent.

Joseph Warren, President, P. T.

The papers inclosed, and referred to, in the above, are as follows:

In provincial Congress, Watertown, May 3, 1775.

Resolved, That the receiver-general be, and hereby is empowered, to borrow the sum of one hundred thousand pounds, lawful money, and issue colony security for the same, payable, with annual interest, at six per cent. June 1, 1777, and that the continental Congress be desired to recommend to the several colonies, to give a currency to such securities.

A true extract from the minutes,

Samuel Freeman, Secretary, P. T.

In Provincial Congress, Watertown, May 3, 1775.

Resolved, That the securities given by the receiver-general for the monies borrowed by him, in pursuance of the foregoing resolve, be in the form following, viz.

Colony of the Massachusetts-Bay.

No.	the	day of	A. D.
177	borrowed and received of	A. B.	

the sum of _____ lawful money, for the use and service of the colony of the Massachusetts-Bay, and in behalf of said colony. I do hereby promise and oblige myself, and successors in the office of treasurer, or receiver-general, to repay to the said _____ or to his order, the first day of June, 1777, the aforesaid sum of _____ lawful money, in Spanish milled dollars, at six shillings each, or in the several species of coined silver and gold, enumerated in an act made and passed in the 23d year of his late majesty king George the second, intituled, "An act for ascertaining the rates at which coined silver and gold, English half-pence and farthings, may pass within this government;" and according to the rates therein mentioned, with interest, to be paid annually, at six per cent. Witness my hand

A. B.

C. D.

E. F.

And whereas inconveniencies may arise, by the receiver-general's issuing notes for small sums, therefore,

Resolved, That the receiver-general be, and he hereby is directed, not to issue any notes for a less sum than four pounds lawful money.

A true extract from the minutes,

Samuel Freeman, Sec. P. T.

To the Hon. Benjamin Franklin, Esq; at London.

In Provincial Congress, Watertown, April 26, 1775.

"SIR,

"From the entire confidence we repose in your faithfulness and abilities, we consider it the happiness of this colony, that the important trust of agency for it, in this day of unequalled distress, is devolved on your hands, and we doubt not your attachment to the cause and liberties of mankind, will make every possible exertion in our behalf, a pleasure to you; although our circumstances will compel us often to interrupt your repose, by matters that will surely give you pain. A singular instance hereof is the occasion of the present letter. The contents of this packet, will be our apology for troubling you with it.

"From these you will see how, and by whom, we are at last plunged into the horrors of a most unnatural war.

"Our enemies, we are told, have dispatched to Great-Britain a fallacious account of the tragedy they have begun; to prevent

the operation of which, to the public injury, we have engaged the vessel that conveys this to you, as a packet in the service of this colony, and we request your assistance in supplying captain Derby, who commands her, with such necessaries as he shall want, on the credit of your constituents in Massachusetts-Bay.

“ But we most ardently wish, that the several papers herewith inclosed, may be immediately printed and dispersed through every town in England, and especially communicated to the lord mayor, aldermen, and council of the city of London, that they may take such order thereon, as they may think proper. And we are confident your fidelity will make such improvement of them, as shall convince all, who are not determined to be in everlasting blindness, that it is the joined efforts of both Englands, that can save either. But that whatever price our brethren in the one, may be pleased to put on their constitutional liberties, we are authorized to assure you, that the inhabitants of the other, with the greatest unanimity, are inflexibly resolved to sell theirs only at the price of their lives.

Signed by order of the provincial Congress,
Joseph Warren, President, P. T.

A true copy from the original minutes,
Samuel Freeman, Sec. P. T.

The depositions relative to the commencement of hostilities, are as follows:

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

“ We, Solomon Brown, Jonathan Loring, and Elijah Sanderfon, all of lawful age, and of Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, and colony of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England, do testify and declare, that on the evening of the 18th of April, instant, being on the road between Concord and Lexington, and all of us mounted on horses, we were, about ten of the clock, suddenly surprised by nine persons, whom we took to be regular officers, who rode up to us, mounted and armed, each having a pistol in his hand, and after putting pistols to our breasts, and seizing the bridles of our horses, they swore, if we stirred another step, we should be all dead men, upon which we surrendered ourselves. They detained us until two o'clock the next morning, in which time they searched and greatly abused us, having first enquired about the magazine at Concord, whether any guards were posted there, and whether the bridges were up, and said four or five regiments of regulars would be in possession of the stores soon. They then brought us back to Lexington, cut the horses bridles and girths, turned them loose, and then left us.

Solomon Brown, Jonathan Loring, Elijah Sanderfon.”

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

“ I, Elijah Sanderfon, above named, do further testify and declare, that I was on Lexington common, the morning of the 19th of April, aforesaid, having been dismissed by the officers above-

mentioned, and saw a large body of regular troops advancing towards Lexington company, many of whom were then dispersing. I heard one of the regulars, whom I took to be an officer, say, "Damn them, we will have them," and immediately the regulars shouted aloud, run and fired upon the Lexington company, which did not fire a gun before the regulars discharged on them. Eight of the Lexington company were killed while they were dispersing, and at a considerable distance from each other, and many wounded, and although a spectator, I narrowly escaped with my life.

Elijah Sanderson."

Lexington, April 23, 1775.

"I, Thomas Rice Willard, of lawful age, do testify and declare, that being in the house of Daniel Harrington, of said Lexington, on the 19th instant in the morning, about half an hour before sun-rise, looked out at the window of said house, and saw (as I suppose) about four hundred regulars in one body, coming up the road, and marched towards the north part of the common, back of the meeting-house of said Lexington, and as soon as said regulars were against the east end of the meeting-house, the commanding officer said something, what I know not, but upon that the regulars ran till they came within about eight or nine rods of about an hundred of the militia of Lexington, who were collected on said common, at which time the militia of Lexington dispersed, then the officers made an huzza, and the private soldiers succeeded them: directly after this, an officer rode before the regulars to the other side of the body, and hallooed after the militia of said Lexington, and said, "lay down your arms, damn you, why don't you lay down your arms?" and that there was not a gun fired till the militia of Lexington were dispersed; and further faith not.

Thomas Rice Willard."

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

Simon Winship, of Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, and province of Massachusetts-Bay, New England, being of lawful age, testifieth and faith, that on the 19th April instant, about four o'clock in the morning, as he was passing the public road in said Lexington, peaceably and unarmed, about two miles and an half distant from the meeting-house in said Lexington, he was met by a body of the king's regular troops, and being stopped by some officers of said troops, was commanded to dismount; upon asking why he must dismount, he was obliged by force to quit his horse, and ordered to march in the midst of the body, and being examined whether he had been warning the minute men, he answered No, but had been out, and was then returning to his father's. Said Winship farther testifies, that he marched with said troops, till he came within about half-a-quarter of a mile of said meeting-house, where an officer commanded the troops to halt, and then to prime and load: this being done, the said troops marched on till they came within a few rods of captain Parker's company, who were partly collected on the

place of parade, when said Winslip observed an officer at the head of said troops, flourishing his sword, and with a loud voice, giving the word, fire, fire, which was instantly followed by a discharge of arms from said regular troops, and said Winslip is positive, and in the most solemn manner declares, that there was no discharge of arms on either side, till the word fire was given, by the said officer as above.

Simon Winslip."

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

" I, John Parker, of lawful age, and commander of the militia in Lexington, do testify and declare, that on the 19th instant, in the morning, about one of the clock, being informed that there were a number of regular officers riding up and down the road, stopping and insulting people as they passed the road; and also was informed that a number of regular troops were on their march from Boston, in order to take the province stores at Concord, ordered our militia to meet on the common in said Lexington, to consult what to do, and concluded not to be discovered, nor meddle or make with said regular troops (if they should approach) unless they should insult or molest us;—and, upon their sudden approach, I immediately ordered our militia to disperse, and not to fire.—Immediately said troops made their appearance and rushed furiously, fired upon, and killed eight of our party, without receiving any provocation therefor from us.

John Parker."

Lexington, April 24, 1775.

" I, John Robins, being of lawful age, do testify and say, that on the 19th instant, the company under the command of captain John Parker, being drawn up (sometime before sun-rise) on the green or common, and I being in the front rank, there suddenly appeared a number of the king's troops, about a thousand, as I thought, at the distance of about sixty or seventy yards from us huzzaing, and on a quick pace towards us, with three officers in their front on horseback, and on full gallop towards us, the foremost of which cried, throw down your arms ye villains, ye rebels! upon which said company dispersing, the foremost of the three officers ordered their men, saying, fire, by God, fire! at which moment we received a very heavy and close fire from them, at which instant, being wounded, I fell, and several of our men were shot dead by me. Captain Parker's men I believe had not then fired a gun, and further the deponent saith not.

John Robins."

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

We, Benjamin Tidd, of Lexington, and Joseph Abbot, of Lincoln, in the county of Middlesex, and colony of Massachusetts-Bay, in New-England, of lawful age, do testify and declare, that, on the morning of the 19th of April instant, about five o'clock, being on Lexington common, and mounted on horses, we saw a body

of regular troops marching up to the Lexington company, which was then dispersing: Soon after, the regulars fired, first, a few guns, which we took to be pistols from some of the regulars who were mounted on horses, and then the said regulars fired a volley or two before any guns were fired by the Lexington company; our horses immediately started, and we rode off. And further say not.

Benjamin Tidd, Joseph Abbot."

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

"We, Nathaniel Mullokin, Philip Russell, Moses Harrington, jun. Thomas and Daniel Harrington, William Grimes, William Tidd, Huac Hastings, Jonas Stone, jun. James Wynan, Thaddeus Harrington, John Chandler, Joshua Reed, jun. Joseph Simonds, Phineas Smith, John Chandler, jun. Reuben Cock, Joel Viles, Nathan Reed, Samuel Tidd, Benjamin Lock, Thomas Winship, Simeon Snow, John Smith, Moses Harrington the 3d. Joshua Reed, Ebenezer Parker, John Harrington, Enoch Willington, John Horner, Isaac Green, Phineas Stearns, Isaac Durant, and Thomas Headley, jun. all of lawful age, and inhabitants of Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, and colony of the Massachusetts-Bay, in New-England, do testify and declare, that on the 19th of April instant, about one or two o'clock in the morning, being informed that several officers of the regulars had, the evening before, been riding up and down the road, and had detained and insulted the inhabitants passing the same; and also understanding that a body of regulars were marching from Boston towards Concord, with intent (as it was supposed) to take the stores, belonging to the colony, in that town, we were alarmed, and having met at the place of our company's parade, were dismissed by our captain, John Parker, for the present, with orders to be ready to attend at the beat of the drum. We further testify and declare, that, about five o'clock in the morning, hearing our drum beat, we proceeded towards the parade, and soon found that a large body of troops were marching towards us: Some of our company were coming up to the parade, and others had reached it, at which time the company began to disperse: Whilst our backs were turned on the troops, we were fired on by them, and a number of our men were instantly killed and wounded. Not a gun was fired, by any person in our company, on the regulars, to our knowledge, before they fired on us, and they continued firing until we had all made our escape.

Signed by each of the above deponents."

Lexington, 25th of April, 1775.

"We, Nathaniel Parhamst, Jonas Parker, John Munroe, jun. John Winship, Solomon Pierce, John Muzzy, Abner Meeds, John Bridge, jun. Ebenezer Bowman, William Munroe the 3d. Micah Haeger, Samuel Saunderson, Samuel Hastings, and James Brown, of Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, and colony of the Massachusetts-Bay, in New-England, and all of lawful age, do testify and say, that, on the morning of the nineteenth of April instant,

about one or two o'clock, being informed, that a number of regular officers had been riding up and down the road the evening and night preceding, and that some of the inhabitants, as they were passing, had been insulted by the officers, and stopped by them; and being also informed, that the regular troops were on their march from Boston, in order (as it was said) to take the colony stores, then deposited at Concord, we met on the parade of our company in this town; after the company had collected, we were ordered, by captain Parker, (who commanded us) to disperse for the present, and to be ready to attend the beat of the drum, and accordingly the company went into houses near the place of parade. We further testify and say, that, about five o'clock in the morning, we attended the beat of our drum, and were formed on the parade; we were faced towards the regulars then marching up to us, and some of our company were coming to the parade with their backs towards the troops, and others, on the parade, began to disperse when the regulars fired on the company, before a gun was fired by any of our company on them. They killed eight of our company, and wounded several, and continued their fire, until we had all made our escape.

“Signed by each of the deponents.”

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

“I, Timothy Smith, of Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, and colony of Massachusetts-Bay, in New-England, being of lawful age, do testify and declare, that, on the morning of the nineteenth of April instant, being on Lexington common, as a spectator, I saw a large body of regular troops marching up towards the Lexington company, then dispersing, and likewise saw the regular troops fire on the Lexington company, before the latter fired a gun; I immediately ran, and a volley was discharged at me, which put me in imminent danger of losing my life; I soon returned to the common, and saw eight of the Lexington men who were killed, and lay bleeding at a considerable distance from each other; and several were wounded: And further saith not.

Timothy Smith.”

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

“We, Levi Mead and Levi Harrington, both of Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, and colony of Massachusetts-Bay, in New-England, and of lawful age, do testify and declare, that, on the morning of the nineteenth of April, being on Lexington commons, as spectators, we saw a large body of regular troops marching up towards the Lexington company, and some of the regulars, on horses, whom we took to be officers, fired a pistol or two on the Lexington company, which was then dispersing: These were the first guns that were fired, and they were immediately followed by several volleys from the regulars, by which eight men, belonging to said company, were killed, and several wounded.

Levi Harrington, Levi Mead.”

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

"I, William Draper, of lawful age, and an inhabitant of Colrain, in the county of Hampshire, and colony of Massachusetts-Bay, in New-England, do testify and declare, that, being on the parade of said Lexington, April 19th instant, about half an hour before sunrise, the king's regular troops appeared at the meeting-house of Lexington. Captain Parker's company, who were drawn up back of said meeting-house on the parade, turned from said troops, making their escape, by dispersing; in the mean time, the regular troops made an huzza, and ran towards captain Parker's company, who were dispersing, and, immediately after the huzza was made, the commanding officer of said troops (as I took him) gave the command to the said troops, fire! "fire! damn you, fire!" and, immediately, they fired before any of captain Parker's company fired, I then being within three or four rods of said regular troops: And further say not.

William Draper."

Lexington, April 23, 1775.

"I, Thomas Fessenden, of lawful age, testify and declare, that, being in a pasture near the meeting-house, at said Lexington, on Wednesday last, at about half an hour before sunrise, I saw a number of regular troops pass speedily by said meeting-house, on their way towards a company of militia of said Lexington, who were assembled to the number of about one hundred in a company, at the distance of eighteen or twenty rods from said meeting-house; and after they had passed by said meeting-house, I saw three officers, on horse-back, advance to the front of said regulars, when one of them, being within six rods of the said militia, cried out, "disperse, you rebels, immediately," on which he brandished his sword over his head three times; mean while the second officer, who was about two rods behind him, fired a pistol, pointed at said militia, and the regulars kept huzzaing till he had finished brandishing his sword, and when he had thus finished brandishing his sword, he pointed it down towards said militia, and immediately on which the said regulars fired a volley at the militia, and then I ran off as fast as I could, while they continued firing till I got out of their reach. I further testify, that as soon as ever the officer cried "disperse, you rebels," the said company of militia dispersed every way, as fast as they could, and, while they were dispersing, the regulars kept firing at them incessantly: And further saith not.

Thomas Fessenden."

Lincoln, April 23, 1775.

"I, John Bateman, belonging to the fifty-second regiment, commanded by colonel Jones, on Wednesday morning, on the 19th day of April instant, was in the party marching to Concord, being at Lexington, in the county of Middlesex, being nigh the meeting-house in said Lexington, there was a small party of men gathered together in that place, when our said troops marched by, and I tes-

tify and declare, that I heard the word of command given to the troops to fire, and some of said troops did fire, and I saw one of said small party lay dead on the ground nigh said meeting-house; and I testify that I never heard any of the inhabitants so much as fire one gun on said troops.

John Bateman."

Lexington, April 23, 1775.

"We, John Hoar, John Whithead, Abraham Garfield, Benjamin Munroe, Isaac Parks, William Hosmer, John Adams, Gregory Stone, all of Lincoln, in the county of Middlesex, Massachusetts-Bay, all of lawful age, do testify and say, that, on Wednesday last, we were assembled at Concord, in the morning of said day, in consequence of information received, that a brigade of regular troops were on their march to the said town of Concord, who had killed six men at the town of Lexington; about an hour afterwards we saw them approaching, to the number, as we apprehended, of about twelve hundred, on which we retreated to a hill about eighty rods back, and the said troops then took possession of the hill, where we were first posted; presently after this, we saw the troops moving towards the north bridge, about one mile from the said Concord meeting-house; we then immediately went before them and passed the bridge just before a party of them, to the number of about two hundred, arrived; they there left about one-half of their two hundred at the bridge, and proceeded, with the rest, towards col. Barrett's, about two miles from the said bridge; we then seeing several fires in the town, thought the houses in Concord were in danger, and marched towards the said bridge; and the troops that were stationed there, observing our approach, marched back over the bridge and then took up some of the planks; we then hastened our march towards the bridge, and when we had got near the bridge, they fired on our men, first three guns, one after the other, and then a considerable number more; and then, and not before (having orders from our commanding officers not to fire till we were fired upon) we fired upon the regulars and they retreated. On their retreat through the town of Lexington to Charlestown, they ravaged and destroyed private property, and burnt three houses, one barn, and one shop.

"Signed by each of the above deponents."

Lexington, April 23, 1775.

"We, Nathan Barrot, captain; Jonathan Farrar, Joseph Butler, and Francis Wheeler, lieutenants; John Barret, ensign; John Brown, Silas Walker, Ephraim Melvin, Nathan Buttrick, Stephen Hosmer, jun. Samuel Barret, Thomas Jones, Joseph Chandler, Peter Wheeler, Nathan Pierce, and Edward Richardson, all of Concord, in the county of Middlesex, in the province of Massachusetts-Bay, of lawful age, testify and declare, that on Wednesday, the nineteenth instant, about an hour after sun-rise, we assembled on a hill near the meeting-house, in Concord aforesaid, in consequence of an information, that a number of regular troops

had killed six of our countrymen, at Lexington, and were on their march to said Concord; and about an hour afterwards, we saw them approaching, to the number, as we imagine, of about twelve hundred; on which we retreated to a hill about eighty rods back, and the aforesaid troops then took possession of a hill where we were first posted. Presently after this, we saw them moving towards the north bridge, about one mile from said meeting-house; we then immediately went before them, and passed the bridge just before a party of them, to the number of about two hundred, arrived. They there left about one half of these two hundred at the bridge, and proceeded with the rest towards colonel Barret's, about two miles from the said bridge. We then seeing several fires in the town, thought our houses were in danger, and immediately marched back towards said bridge, and the troops who were stationed there, observing our approach, marched back over the bridge, and then took up some of the planks. We then hastened our steps towards the bridge, and when we had got near the bridge, they fired on our men, first three guns, one after the other, and then a considerable number more; upon which, and not before, (having orders from our commanding officer not to fire till we were fired upon) we fired upon the regulars, and they retreated. At Concord, and on their retreat through Lexington, they plundered many houses, burnt three at Lexington, together with a shop and barn, and committed damage, more or less, to almost every house from Concord to Charlestown.

“Signed by the above deponents.”

“We, Joseph Butler, and Ephraim Melvin, do testify and declare, that when the regular troops fired upon our people, at the north bridge, in Concord, as related in the foregoing depositions, they shot one, and we believe two, of our people, before we fired a single gun at them.

Lexington, April 23, 1775.

*Joseph Butler,
Ephraim Melvin.”*

Concord, April 23, 1775.

“I, Timothy Minot, jun. of Concord, on the nineteenth day of this instant, April, after that I had heard of the regular troops firing upon Lexington men, and fearing that hostilities might be committed at Concord, thought it my incumbent duty to secure my family.—After I had secured my family, some time after that, returning towards my own dwelling, and finding that the bridge on the north part of said Concord, was guarded by regular troops, being a spectator of what had happened at said bridge, declare, that the regular troops stationed on said bridge, after they saw the men that were collected on the westerly side of said bridge, marched towards said bridge, then the troops returned towards the easterly side of said bridge, and formed themselves, as I thought, for regular fight: after that they fired one gun, then two or three more, before the men that were stationed on the westerly part of said bridge fired upon them.

Timothy Minot, jun.”

Lexington, April 23, 1775.

" I, James Barrett, of Concord, colonel of a regiment of militia, in the county of Middlesex, do testify and say, that, on Wednesday morning last, about day-break, I was informed of the approach of a number of the regular troops to the town of Concord, where were some magazines belonging to this province, when there was assembled some of the militia of this and the neighbouring towns, I ordered them to march to the north bridge (so called) which they had passed and were taking up. I ordered said militia to march to said bridge and pass the same, but not to fire on the king's troops unless they were first fired upon. We advanced near said bridge, when the said troops fired upon our militia, and killed two men dead on the spot, and wounded several others, which was the first firing of guns in the town of Concord: My detachment then returned the fire, which killed and wounded several of the king's troops.

James Barrett."

Lexington, April 23, 1775.

" We, Bradbury Robinson, Samuel Spring, Thaddeus Bancroft, all of Concord; and James Adams, of Lexington, all in the county of Middlesex, all of lawful age, do testify and say, that on Wednesday morning last, near ten of the clock, we saw near one hundred of the regular troops, being in the town of Concord, at the north bridge in said town (so called) and having passed the same, they were taking up said bridge, when about three hundred of our militia were advancing toward said bridge, in order to pass said bridge, when, without saying any thing to us, they discharged a number of guns on us, which killed two men dead on the spot, and wounded several others; when we returned the fire on them, which killed two of them, and wounded several, which was the beginning of hostilities in the town of Concord.

*Bradbury Robinson, Thaddeus Bancroft,
Samuel Spring, James Adams."*

Worcester, April 26, 1775.

" Hannah Bradish, of that part of Cambridge, called Menotomy, and daughter of Timothy Paine, of Worcester, in the county of Worcester, Esq; of lawful age, testifies and says, that about five o'clock on Wednesday last, afternoon, being in her bed-chamber, with her infant child, about eight days old, she was surprised by the firing of the king's troops and our people, on their return from Concord. She being weak and unable to go out of her house, in order to secure herself and family, they all retired into the kitchen, in the back part of the house. She soon found the house surrounded with the king's troops; that upon observation made, at least seventy bullets were shot into the front part of the house; several bullets lodged in the kitchen where she was, and one passed through an easy chair she had just gone from. The door of the front part of the house was broke open; she did not see any soldiers

in the house, but supposed, by the noise, they were in the front. After the troops had gone off, she missed the following things, which, she verily believes, were taken out of the house by the king's troops, viz. one rich brocade gown, called a negligee, one lutestring gown, one white quilt, one pair of brocade shoes, three shifts, eight white aprons, three caps, one case of ivory knives and forks, and several other small articles.

Hannah Bradish."

*Province of the }
Massachusetts-Bay, } Worcester, ff. April 26, 1775.*

"Mrs. Hannah Bradish, the above deponent maketh oath before us, the subscribers, two of his majesty's justices of the peace, for the county of Worcester, and of the quorum, that the above deposition, according to her best recollection, is the truth. Which deposition is taken in *perpetuam rei memoriam*.

*Thomas Steel,
Timothy Paine."*

Concord, April 23, 1775.

"I, James Marr, of lawful age, testify and say, that in the evening of the eighteenth instant, I received orders from George Hutchinson, adjutant of the fourth regiment of the regular troops stationed at Boston, to prepare and march: To which orders I attended, and marched to Concord, where I was ordered by an officer with about one hundred men, to guard a certain bridge there; while attending that service, a number of people came along, in order, as I suppose, to cross said bridge, at which time a number of the regular troops first fired upon them.

James Marr."

Medford, April 25, 1775.

"I, Edward Thoroton Gould, of his majesty's own regiment of foot, being of lawful age, do testify and declare, that on the evening of the eighteenth instant, under the orders of general Gage, I embarked with the light infantry and grenadiers of the line, commanded by colonel Smith, and landed on the marshes of Cambridge, from whence we proceeded to Lexington; on our arrival at that place, we saw a body of provincial troops armed, to the number of about sixty or seventy men; on our approach, they dispersed, and soon after firing began, but which party fired first, I cannot exactly say, as our troops rushed on shouting, and huzzaing, previous to the firing, which was continued by our troops, so long as any of the provincials were to be seen. From thence we marched to Concord. On a hill near the entrance of the town, we saw another body of provincials assembled: the light infantry companies were ordered up the hill to disperse them; on our approach, they retreated towards Concord; the grenadiers continued the road under the hill towards the town. Six companies of light infantry were ordered down to take possession of the bridge, which the provincials retreated over; the company I commanded was one:

three companies of the above detachment went forwards about two miles; in the mean time, the provincial troops returned, to the number of about three or four hundred: We drew up on the Concord side of the bridge, the provincials came down upon us, upon which we engaged and gave the first fire; this was the first engagement after the one at Lexington; a continued firing from both parties lasted through the whole day; I myself was wounded at the attack of the bridge, and am now treated with the greatest humanity, and taken all possible care of by the provincials at Medford.

*Edward Thoroton Gould, Lieut.
King's own Regiment."*

*Province of Massachusetts-Bay, }
Middlesex county, April 25, 1775. }*

"Lieut. Thoroton Gould, aforementioned, personally made oath to the truth of the foregoing declaration by him subscribed, before us,
Thad. Masson, Josiah Johnson, Simon Tufts, Justices
of the peace, for the county aforesaid, *quorum unus.*

Province of Massachusetts-Bay, Charlestown, ff.

"I, Nathaniel Gorham, notary and tabellion public, by lawful authority duly admitted and sworn, hereby certify, to all whom it doth or may concern, That Thadeus Masson, Josiah Johnson, and Simon Tufts, Esqrs; are three of his majesty's justices of the peace (*quorum unus*) for the county of Middlesex; and that full faith and credit is, and ought to be given to their transactions, as such, both in court and out. In witness whereof, I have hereunto affixed my name and seal, this twenty-sixth day of April, *Anno Domini*, one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five.

Nathaniel Gorham, Notary Public." (L. S.)

(All the above depositions are sworn to before justices of the peace, and duly attested by notaries public, in manner of the last one.)

In Provincial Congress, Watertown, April 26, 1775.

To the inhabitants of Great-Britain.

"FRIENDS AND FELLOW-SUBJECTS,

"Hostilities are at length commenced in this colony by the troops under the command of general Gage, and it being of the greatest importance, that an early, true, and authentic account of this inhuman proceeding should be known to you, the Congress of this colony have transmitted the same, and from want of a session of the hon. continental Congress, think it proper to address you on the alarming occasion.

"By the clearest depositions, relative to this transaction, it will appear that, on the night preceding the nineteenth of April instant, a body of the king's troops, under the command of colonel Smith, were secretly landed at Cambridge, with an apparent design to take or destroy the military and other stores, provided for the defence of this colony, and deposited at Concord—that some inhabitants of the colony, on the night aforesaid, whilst travelling peaceably on

the road between Boston and Concord, were seized and greatly abused by armed men, who appeared to be officers of general Gage's army :—that the town of Lexington by these means was alarmed, and a company of the inhabitants mustered on the occasion—that the regular troops, on their way to Concord, marched into the said town of Lexington, and the said company on their approach began to disperse—that notwithstanding this, the regulars rushed on with great violence, and first began hostilities, by firing on said Lexington company, whereby they killed eight and wounded several others—that the regulars continued their fire until those of said company, who were neither killed nor wounded, had made their escape—that colonel Smith, with the detachment, then marched to Concord, where a number of provincials were again fired on by the troops, two of them killed and several wounded, before the provincials fired on them, and that these hostile measures of the troops produced an engagement that lasted through the day, in which many of the provincials, and more of the regular troops were killed and wounded.

“ To give a particular account of the ravages of the troops, as they retreated from Concord to Charlestown, would be very difficult, if not impracticable ; let it suffice to say, that a great number of the houses on the road were plundered, and rendered unfit for use ; several were burnt ; women in child-bed were driven, by the soldiery, naked into the streets ; old men peaceably in their houses were shot dead ; and such scenes exhibited as would disgrace the annals of the most uncivilized nations.

“ These, brethren, are marks of ministerial vengeance against this colony, for refusing, with her sister colonies, a submission to slavery ; but they have not yet detached us from our royal sovereign. We profess to be his loyal and dutiful subjects, and so hardly dealt with as we have been, are still ready, with our lives and fortunes, to defend his person, family, crown, and dignity. Nevertheless, to the persecution and tyranny of his cruel ministry we will not tamely submit—appealing to heaven for the justice of our cause, we determine to die or be free.

“ We cannot think that the honour, wisdom, and valour of Britons will suffer them to be long inactive spectators of measures, in which they themselves are so deeply interested :—Measures pursued in opposition to the solemn protests of many noble lords, and expressed sense of conspicuous commoners, whose knowledge and virtue have long characterized them as some of the greatest men in the nation :—Measures executing contrary to the interest, petitions and resolves of many large, respectable and opulent counties, cities, and boroughs in Great-Britain :—Measures highly incompatible with justice, but still pursued with a specious pretence of easing the nation of its burthens :—Measures which, if successful, must end in the ruin and slavery of Britain, as well as the persecuted American colonies.

“ We sincerely hope, that the great Sovereign of the Universe, who hath so often appeared for the English nation, will support you

in every rational and manly exertion with these colonies, for saving it from ruin ; and that in a constitutional connection with the mother country, we shall soon be altogether a free and happy people.

Per Order,

Joseph Warren, President, P. T."

Ordered, That the secretary have the above depositions and the address to the inhabitants of Great-Britain published.

Resolved, N. C. D. That the Congress will, on Monday next, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the state of America.

Ordered, That the letter from the provincial Congress of Massachusetts-Bay be referred to that committee.

Adjourned till to-morrow at ten o'clock, and from thence to Saturday.

SATURDAY, May 12, 1775.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

The Congress being informed that doctor Lyman Hall attended at the door, as a delegate from the parish of St. John's, in the colony of Georgia, and desired to know whether, as such, he may be admitted to this Congress ;

Agreed unanimously, That he be admitted as a delegate from the parish of St. John's, in the colony of Georgia, subject to such regulations as the Congress shall determine, relative to his voting.

Mr. Lyman Hall being accordingly admitted, produced his credentials, which were read and approved, and are as follows :

" To the honorable gentlemen of the Congress, designed to be held at Philadelphia, on May, A. D. 1775.

" The address of the inhabitants of the parish of St. John's, in the province of Georgia.

" GENTLEMEN,

" To give a particular detail of our many struggles in the cause of liberty, the many meetings thereby occasioned and held in this parish, the endeavours we have used to induce the rest of this province to concur with us, the attendance of our committee on the provincial conventions, held at Savannah, in this province, and particularly that of the 18th of January last, with their proceedings, and the reasons of our dissent from them, we think would be tedious to you, and therefore send a summary abstract, which, with the account, that may be given by Lyman Hall, Esq; appointed a delegate to represent and act for this parish in the general continental Congress, to be held in May next, and the testimonies of the honorable delegates from South-Carolina, we hope will be satisfactory.

" Immediately upon our being honoured with an answer to the representation of our case transmitted to the honourable Congress, which sat at Philadelphia last year, with a copy of the association there entered into, we had a meeting, and our proceedings then and

since that time, will, in brief, appear from the following abstracts of an address from this parish to the committee of correspondence in Charlestown, South-Carolina, which is as follows:

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ Herewith will be communicated to you, the several steps taken by this parish in their endeavours to conform, as near as possible, to the resolutions entered into by the other colonies: and the particular measures now adopted, for carrying into execution the continental association, which we embraced the earliest opportunity of acceding to, by subscribing it; on condition that trade and commerce with the other colonies be continued to us the subscribers; and thereupon should have immediately sent to you for your approbation and indulgence, but were delayed by a summons to attend a provincial Congress in Savannah, on the 18th of January last, for the purpose, as we understood, of a general association with the other colonies, and chusing delegates: at which time and place we attended, and acquainted the other parishes, assembled on that occasion, that we had already acceded to the general association, on condition, as above-mentioned, and earnestly requested them to do the same. Had they acceded fully to the general association, we should have had no occasion to trouble you with this address; but, as they did not, we now apply to you, to admit us, the subscribers, to an alliance with you, requesting that you will allow trade and commerce to be continued to us, the same to be conducted under such regulations and restrictions, as shall be consistent with the continental association, and which, on our part, we engage, with all possible care, to keep inviolate. As we of this parish are a body detached from the rest (i. e. of this province) by our resolutions, and sufficiently distinct by local situation, large enough for particular notice, adjoining a particular port, and in that respect, capable of conforming to the general association, if connected with you, with the same fidelity as a distant parish of your own province; we must be considered, as comprehended within the spirit and equitable meaning of the continental association, and hope you will not condemn the innocent with the guilty, especially when a due separation is made between them.

“ Give us leave to add only, that we wait your answer, shall be glad of your advice, and are, with esteem,

“ Gentlemen,

“ Yours, &c.”

*St. John's, 9th }
February, 1775. }*

To which we received the following answer:

“ GENTLEMEN,

“ Your letter, accompanying sundry papers, having been laid before a very full committee of this colony, and undergone the most mature deliberation, I am, by their desire, to acquaint you, that they have the highest sense of your arduous struggles in favour of

the common cause of America; and most sincerely lament your present unhappy situation; but would recommend a continuance of your laudable exertions, and the laying a state of your case before the ensuing continental Congress, as the only means of obtaining relief, and to put you in the situation you wish, which this committee apprehend to be entirely out of their power to do; as it is their opinion, that the parish of St. John, being a part of the colony of Georgia (which, by not acceding to, has violated the continental association) falls under the 14th article of the said association, no part of which any committee can presume to do away, &c.'

"Upon the receipt of this answer, it was seriously considered in what manner to conduct in the present situation; and proposed, whether we should immediately break off all connection and commerce with Savannah, and all other inhabitants of this province, who have not fully acceded to the continental association.

"It was considered, that as we were denied commerce with any other colony, and but one merchant among us considerable for dry goods, had signed our association, and he insufficient for a present supply, and we utterly unable at present to procure materials or manufactures for cloathing among ourselves, we must, by such a resolution, become extremely miserable; it was therefore concluded, that till we could obtain trade and commerce with some other colony, it is absolutely necessary to continue it in some respects with our own, and determined that it be carried on under the following regulations:

"1. That none of us shall directly or indirectly purchase any slave imported at Savannah, (large numbers of which we understand are there expected,) till the sense of the Congress shall be made known to us.

"2. That we will not trade at all with any merchant at Savannah, or elsewhere, that will not join in our associating agreement, otherwise than under the inspection of a committee for that purpose appointed, and for such things only as they shall judge necessary, and when they shall think there are necessary reasons for so doing.

"A committee was then nominated, and appointed to sit weekly on Thursdays, for the purposes aforesaid.

"It was then resolved, that a delegate be sent from this parish to the Congress, to be held at Philadelphia, in May next, and that Tuesday, the 21st of March, be appointed for chusing one.

"On the said 21st of March, at a full meeting, Lyman Hall, Esq; was unanimously chosen, to represent and act for the inhabitants of this parish, as a delegate, at the general Congress, to be held in Philadelphia, in May next, who are determined faithfully to adhere to, and abide by, the determination of him, and the other honourable members of the same.

§ Signed by order of the inhabitants,

By *Daniel Roberts*, and twenty others,
members of the committee.

*"Midway, St. John's parish, in the province of Georgia, 13th April,
A. D. 1775."*

A petition from the county of Frederick, in Virginia, addressed to the Congress, was presented and read.

Agreed, That it be referred to the committee on Monday.

Adjourned till Monday at nine o'clock.

MONDAY, May 15, 1775.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

Besides those who met at the opening of the Congress, the following members attended; from New-York, Mr. Jay, Mr. Wifner, Mr. Schuyler, Mr. Clinton, Mr. Morris, and Mr. R. R. Livingston; from Pennsylvania, Mr. Wilson; from Maryland, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Goldborough.

Upon motion,

Agreed, That the secretary be allowed to employ Timothy Matlack, as a clerk, he having first taken an oath, or affirmation, to keep secret the transactions of the Congress, that may be entrusted to him, or may come to his knowledge.

The city and county of New-York, having, through the delegates of that province, applied to Congress for advice how to conduct themselves with regard to the troops expected there, the Congress took the matter into consideration. During their deliberations, it became necessary to take the opinion of the Congress by colonies, upon which a question arose, whether the delegate from the parish of St. John's, in the colony of Georgia, could be admitted to vote. After some debate on this question, the delegate from that parish arose, and after observing, that the present distressful situation of American affairs had induced a necessity of this Congress, which was composed of delegates representing whole colonies; that as he did not represent a colony, but only a part, he did not insist on giving a vote as a colony, but was contented to hear and assist in the debates, and to give his vote in all cases, except when the sentiments of the Congress were taken by colonies.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the matter referred to them; during the debate, Samuel Ward, Esq; one of the delegates from Rhode-Island, appeared and produced his credentials, which being read, were approved, and are as follows:

(L. S.)

By the honourable the general assembly of the English colony of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, in New-England, in America.

To the Hon. Stephen Hopkins, Esq; and the Hon. Samuel Ward, Esq; Greeting,

Whereas the general assembly of the colony aforesaid, have nominated and appointed you, the said Stephen Hopkins and Samuel Ward, to represent the people of this colony, in a general Congress of representatives, from this and the other colonies, to be holden in the city of Philadelphia, and there, in behalf of this colony, to meet, and join with the commissioners, or delegates from the other colonies, in consulting upon proper measures to obtain a repeal of

the several acts of the British parliament, for levying taxes upon his majesty's subjects in America, without their consent; and upon proper measures to establish the rights and liberties of the colonies, upon a just and solid foundation, agreeable to the instructions given you by the general assembly.

By virtue of an act of the general assembly, I, Henry Ward, Esq; secretary of the said colony, have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the said colony, this seventh day of May, A. D. 1775, and in the fifteenth year of the reign of his most sacred majesty, George the third, by the grace of God, king of Great-Britain, &c.

(Signed)

Henry Ward.

The matter under consideration being resumed, the Congress

Resolved, That it be recommended, for the present, to the inhabitants of New-York, that if the troops, which are expected, should arrive, the said colony act on the defensive, so long as may be consistent with their safety and security; that the troops be permitted to remain in the barracks, so long as they behave peaceably and quietly, but that they be not suffered to erect fortifications, or take any steps for cutting off the communication between the town and country, and that if they commit hostilities or invade private property, the inhabitants should defend themselves and their property, and repel force by force; that the warlike stores be removed from the town; that places of retreat, in case of necessity, be provided for the women and children of New-York; and that a sufficient number of men be embodied, and kept in constant readiness for protecting the inhabitants from insult and injury.

Two memorials, one from Samuel Shoemaker, the other from James and Drinker, merchants of this city, respecting some cargoes purchased by them, and intended for Newfoundland, but which are stopped by the committee of this city, were laid before the Congress, and read, and ordered to lie on the table.

Upon motion,

Resolved, That Mr. Washington, Mr. Lynch, Mr. S. Adams, and the delegates from New-York, be a committee, to consider what posts are necessary to be occupied in the colony of New-York, and that they be desired to report as speedily as possible.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the state of America.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, May 16, 1775.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

A memorial from Robert and John Murray, of New-York, was laid before the Congress, and read.

Ordered, To lie on the table.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the state

of America; after some time spent therein, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Tilghman reported from the committee, that they had taken the matter referred to them into consideration, but not having come to any resolution, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to-morrow, again resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the state of America.

Adjourned till to-morrow at twelve o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, May 17, 1775.

The Congress met according to adjournment, and the order of the day was postponed till to-morrow:

Upon motion,

Resolved unanimously, That all exportations to Quebec, Nova-Scotia, the Island of St. John's, Newfoundland, Georgia, except the parish of St. John's, and to East and West Florida, immediately cease, and that no provision of any kind, or other necessaries be furnished to the British fisheries on the American coasts, until it be otherwise determined by the Congress.

Ordered, That this be published immediately.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

THURSDAY, May 18, 1775.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

The honorable Stephen Hopkins, Esq; from Rhode-Island, and Patrick Henry, Esq; from Virginia, attended and took their seats in Congress.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That the rules of conduct, to be observed in debating and determining questions, laid down by the last Congress, be adopted and observed by the present Congress.

The president laid before the Congress, some important intelligence he received last night, by express, relative to the surprising and taking of Ticonderoga, by a detachment from Massachusetts-Bay and Connecticut, which was read.

Upon motion, *Agreed*, That Mr. Brown, who brought the express, be called in: After he withdrew, the Congress, taking into consideration the letters and intelligence communicated to them,

Resolved, Whereas there is indubitable evidence, that a design is formed by the British ministry, of making a cruel invasion from the province of Quebec, upon these colonies, for the purpose of destroying our lives and liberties, and some steps have actually been taken to carry the said design into execution; and, whereas, several inhabitants of the northern colonies, residing in the vicinity of Ticonderoga, and immediately exposed to incursions, impelled by a just regard for the defence and preservation of themselves and their countrymen from such imminent dangers and calamities, have taken possession of that post, in which was lodged a quantity of cannon and military stores, that would certainly have been used in the

intended invasion of these colonies; this Congress earnestly recommend it to the committees of the cities and counties of New-York and Albany, immediately to cause the said cannon and stores to be removed from Ticonderoga to the south end of lake George; and, if necessary, to apply to the colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, and Connecticut, for such an additional body of forces as will be sufficient to establish a strong post at that place, and effectually to secure said cannon and stores, or so many of them as it may be judged proper to keep there. And that an exact inventory be taken of all such cannon and stores, in order that they may be safely returned, when the restoration of the former harmony between Great-Britain and these colonies, so ardently wished for by the latter, shall render it prudent, and consistent with the overruling law of self-preservation.

Resolved, That this Congress will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the state of America.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

FRIDAY, May 19, 1775.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

The committee appointed to consider what posts are necessary to be occupied in the colony of New-York, and by what number of troops it will be proper they should be guarded, brought in their report, which, being read, was referred to the committee of the whole.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved themselves into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the state of America, and continued to do so, from day to day, till Wednesday the 24th, on which day the honorable Peyton Randolph, president, being under a necessity of returning home, and having sat out this morning early, the chair was vacant, whereupon,

On motion, the honorable John Hancock, Esq; was unanimously chosen president.

The Congress then resolved themselves into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the state of America, and repeated the same on the day following.

FRIDAY, May 26, 1775.

The Congress being met according to adjournment, one of the delegates from New-Jersey laid before them a minute from the journals of the assembly of that colony, together with a resolution of the commons of Great-Britain, which were read as follows:

“ New-Jersey, House of Assembly, May 20, 1775.

“ His excellency having laid before the house, a copy of the resolution of the honorable house of commons of Great-Britain, of the 20th of February, 1775, containing a plan proposed for the accommodation of the unhappy differences between our people and the

and the colonies ; which plan, under the present circumstances, this house could not comply with and adopt, and yet this house being desirous of making use of all proper means to effect a reconciliation, do recommend it to their delegates to lay the same plan before the continental Congress, for their consideration.

“ A true copy from the journals,

Richard Smith, clerk of assembly.”

Copy of a resolution of the house of commons, February 20, 1775 :

“ *Resolved*, That when the governor, council and assembly, or general court, of any of his majesty's provinces, or colonies, in America, shall propose to make provision according to the condition, circumstances, and situations of such province or colony, for contributing their proportion for the common defence, (such proportion to be raised under the authority of the general court, or general assembly of such province or colony, and disposable by parliament,) and shall engage to make provision also for the support of the civil government, and the administration of justice, in such province or colony, it will be proper, if such proposal shall be approved by his majesty, and the two houses of parliament, and for so long as such provision shall be made accordingly, to forbear, in respect of such province or colony, to levy any duty, tax, or assessment, except only such duties as it may be expedient to continue to levy, or to impose, for the regulation of commerce, the neat produce of the duties, last mentioned, to be carried to the account of such province, or colony, respectively.”

Ordered, That the above be referred to the committee for taking into consideration the state of America.

The Congress then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the state of America ; after some time spent therein, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported from the committee, that they had come to some resolutions which he was desired to report, but not having finished the business, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

The report from the committee being read, the Congress came into the following resolutions :

Resolved unanimously, That his majesty's most faithful subjects, in these colonies, are reduced to a dangerous and critical situation, by the attempts of the British ministry to carry into execution, by force of arms, several unconstitutional and oppressive acts of the British parliament for laying taxes in America ; to enforce the collection of those taxes, and for altering and changing the constitution and internal police of some of these colonies, in violation of the natural and civil rights of the colonists.

Hostilities being actually commenced in the Massachusetts-Bay, by the British troops, under the command of general Gage, and the lives of a number of the inhabitants of that colony destroyed, the town of Boston having not only been long occupied as a garrisoned town in an enemy's country, but the inhabitants thereof treated

with a severity and cruelty not to be justified even towards declared enemies; large re-inforcements too being ordered and soon expected, for the declared purpose of compelling these colonies to submit to the operation of the said acts; that therefore, for the express purpose of securing and defending these colonies, and preserving them in safety against all attempts to carry the said acts into execution, by force of arms, these colonies, be immediately put into a state of defence.

But, as we most ardently wish for a restoration of the harmony formerly subsisting between our mother country and these colonies, the interruption of which must, at all events, be exceedingly injurious to both countries, that with a sincere design of contributing by all the means in our power, not incompatible with a just regard for the undoubted rights and true interests of these colonies, to the promotion of this most desirable reconciliation, an humble and dutiful petition be presented to his majesty.

Resolved, That measures be entered into for opening a negotiation, in order to accomodate the unhappy disputes subsisting between Great-Britain and these colonies, and that this be made a part of the petition to the king.

Resolved unanimously, That the militia of New-York be armed and trained, and in constant readiness to act at a moment's warning; and that a number of men be immediately embodied and kept in that city, and so disposed of as to give protection to the inhabitants, in case any insult should be offered by the troops, that may land there, and to prevent any attempts that may be made to gain possession of the city, and interrupt its intercourse with the country.

Resolved unanimously, That it be recommended to the provincial convention at New-York, to persevere the more vigorously in preparing for their defence, as it is very uncertain whether the earnest endeavours of the Congress, to accomodate the unhappy differences between Great-Britain and the colonies, by conciliatory measures, will be successful.

Upon motion, *Agreed*, That Mr. Jay Mr. S. Adams, and Mr. Deane, be a committee to prepare and bring in a letter to the people of Canada.

Resolved, That this Congress will to-morrow again resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into farther consideration the state of America.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

SATURDAY, May 27, 1775.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

The president laid before the Congress a letter from the convention of New-Jersey, which was read, and referred to the committee of the whole.

Information being given, that there is a gentleman in town who can give a full and just account of the state of affairs in Canada.

Ordered, That he be introduced, which was done.

The committee appointed to draught a letter to the inhabitants of Canada, brought in the letter, which was read, and after some debate, re-committed to the same committee.

Upon motion, *Agreed*, That Mr. Washington, Mr. Schuyler, Mr. Mifflin, Mr. Deane, Mr. Morris and Mr. S. Adams, be a committee, to consider on ways and means to supply these colonies with ammunition and military stores.

Upon motion. The memorial of Robert Murray and John Murray, "desiring to be restored to their former situation with respect to their commercial privileges," was taken into consideration, and after some time spent thereon,

Resolved, That where any person hath been or shall be adjudged by a committee, to have violated the continental association, and such offender shall satisfy the convention of the colony, where the offence was or shall be committed, or the committee of the parish of St. John's, in the colony of Georgia, if the offence be committed there, of his contrition for his offence, and sincere resolution to conform to the association for the future, the said convention, or committee of the parish of St. John's aforesaid, may settle the terms upon which he may be restored to the favour and forgiveness of the public, and that the terms be published.

Ordered, That this be made public.

Resolved, That the order of the day be postponed till Monday. Adjourned till Monday, at nine o'clock.

MONDAY, May 29, 1775.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

The committee, to whom the letter to the inhabitants of Canada, was re-committed, brought in the same, which was read, and approved, and is as follows:

To the oppressed inhabitants of Canada.

FRIENDS AND COUNTRYMEN,

Alarmed by the designs of an arbitrary ministry, to extirpate the rights and liberties of all America, a sense of common danger conspired with the dictates of humanity, in urging us to call your attention, by our late address, to this very important object.

Since the conclusion of the late war, we have been happy in considering you as fellow-subjects, and from the commencement of the present plan for subjugating the continent, we have viewed you as fellow-sufferers with us. As we were both entitled by the bounty of an indulgent Creator to freedom, and being both devoted by the cruel edicts of a despotic administration, to common ruin, we perceived the fate of the Protestant and Catholic colonies to be strongly linked together, and therefore invited you to join with us in resolving to be free, and in rejecting, with disdain, the fetters of slavery, however artfully polished.

We most sincerely condole with you on the arrival of that day, in the course of which, the sun could not shine on a single freeman

in all your extensive dominions. Be assured, that your unmerited degradation has engaged the most unfeigned pity of your sister colonies; and we flatter ourselves you will not, by tamely bearing the yoke, suffer that pity to be supplanted by contempt.

When hardy attempts are made to deprive men of rights, bestowed by the Almighty, when avenues are cut through the most solemn compacts for the admission of despotism, when the plighted faith of government ceases to give security to dutiful subjects, and when the insidious stratagems and manœuvres of peace become more terrible than the sanguinary operations of war, it is high time for them to assert those rights, and, with honest indignation, oppose the torrent of oppression rushing in upon them.

By the introduction of your present form of government, or rather present form of tyranny, you and your wives and your children are made slaves. You have nothing that you can call your own, and all the fruits of your labour and industry may be taken from you, whenever an avaricious governor and a rapacious council may incline to demand them. You are liable by their edicts to be transported into foreign countries to fight battles in which you have no interest, and to spill your blood in conflicts from which neither honour nor emolument can be derived: Nay, the enjoyment of your very religion, on the present system, depends on a legislature in which you have no share, and over which you have no controul, and your priests are exposed to expulsion, banishment, and ruin, whenever their wealth and possessions furnish sufficient temptation. They cannot be sure that a virtuous prince will always fill the throne, and should a wicked or careless king concur with a wicked ministry in extracting the treasure and strength of your country, it is impossible to conceive to what variety and to what extremes of wretchedness you may, under the present establishment, be reduced.

We are informed you have already been called upon to waste your lives in a contest with us. Should you, by complying in this instance, assent to your new establishment, and a war break out with France, your wealth and your sons may be sent to perish in expeditions against their islands in the West-Indies.

It cannot be presumed that these considerations will have no weight with you, or that you are so lost to all sense of honour. We can never believe that the present race of Canadians are so degenerated as to possess neither the spirit, the gallantry, nor the courage of their ancestors. You certainly will not permit the infamy and disgrace of such pusillanimity to rest on your own heads, and the consequences of it on your children forever.

We, for our parts, are determined to live free, or not at all; and are resolved, that posterity shall never reproach us with having brought slaves into the world.

Permit us again to repeat that we are your friends, not your enemies, and be not imposed upon by those who may endeavour to create animosities. The taking of the fort and military stores

at Ticonderoga and Crown-Point, and the armed vessels on the Lake, was dictated by the great law of self-preservation. They were intended to annoy us, and to cut off that friendly intercourse and communication, which has hitherto subsisted between you and us. We hope it has given you no uneasiness, and you may rely on our assurances, that these colonies will pursue no measures whatever, but such as friendship and a regard for our mutual safety and interest may suggest.

As our concern for your welfare entitles us to your friendship, we presume you will not, by doing us injury, reduce us to the disagreeable necessity of treating you as enemies.

We yet entertain hopes of your uniting with us in the defence of our common liberty, and there is yet reason to believe, that should we join in imploring the attention of our sovereign, to the unmerited and unparalelled oppressions of his American subjects, he will at length be undeceived, and forbid a licentious ministry any longer to riot in the ruins of the rights of mankind.

Ordered, That the above letter be signed by the president.

Ordered, That Mr. Dickinson, and Mr. Mifflin, be a committee to get the letter translated into the French language, and to have one thousand copies of it, so translated, printed, in order to be sent to Canada, and dispersed among the inhabitants there.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That no provisions or necessaries of any kind be exported to the island of Nantucket, except from the colony of Massachusetts-Bay, the convention of which colony is desired to take measures for effectually providing the said island, upon their application to purchase the same, with as much provision, as shall be necessary for its internal use, and no more.

The Congress deeming it of great importance to North-America, that the British fishery should not be furnished with provisions from the continent through Nantucket, earnestly recommend a vigilant execution of this resolve to all committees.

Ordered, That the above resolve be immediately published.

As the present critical situation of the colonies renders it highly necessary that ways and means should be devised for the speedy and secure conveyance of intelligence from one end of the continent to the other,

Resolved, That Mr. Franklin, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Lee, Mr. Willing, Mr. S. Adams, and Mr. P. Livingston, be a committee to consider the best means of establishing post for conveying letters and intelligence through this continent.

Resolved, That the order of the day be postponed till to-morrow.

Adjourned till to-morrow, at nine o'clock.

TUESDAY, May 30, 1775.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

A member informed the Congress, that a gentleman, just arrived from London, had brought with him a paper, which he says he received from lord North, and which was written, at the desire of

his lordship, by Mr. Grey Cooper, under-secretary to the treasury, and as the gentleman understood it to be his lordship's desire that it should be communicated to the Congress, for that purpose he had put it into his hands. The member farther observed, that he had shewn the paper to a member near him, who was well acquainted with the hand-writing of Mr. Cooper, and that he verily believes the paper was written by Mr. Cooper.

The paper being read, is as follows :

“ THAT it is earnestly hoped by all the real friends of the Americans, that the terms expressed in the resolution of the 20th of February last, will be accepted by all the colonies, who have the least affection for their king and country, or a just sense of their own interest.

“ That these terms are honourable for Great-Britain, and safe for the colonies.

“ That if the colonies are not blinded by passion, these terms will remove every grievance relative to taxation, and be the basis of a compact between the colonies, and the mother country.

“ That the people in America ought, on every consideration, to be satisfied with them.

“ That no further relaxation can be admitted.

“ The temper and spirit of the nation are so much against concessions, that if it were the intention of administration, they could not carry the question.

“ But administration have no such intention, as they are fully and firmly persuaded, that further concessions would be injurious to the colonies as well as to Great-Britain.

“ That there is not the least probability of a change of administration.

“ That they are perfectly united in opinion, and determined to pursue the most effectual measures, and to use the whole force of the kingdom, if it be found necessary, to reduce the rebellious and refractory provinces and colonies.

“ There is so great a spirit in the nation against the Congress, that the people will bear the temporary distresses of a stoppage of the American trade.

“ They may depend on this to be true.”

Ordered, To lie on the table.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the state of America, and continued so to do the day following, when after some time, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported from the committee, that they had proceeded in the business, but not having come to a conclusion, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will to-morrow again resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the state of America.

A letter from col. Arnold, dated Crown-Point, May 23, 1775,

was laid before the Congress, informing that he had certain intelligence, that "on the 19th there were then four hundred regulars at St. John's, making all possible preparation to cross the lake, and expected to be joined by a number of Indians, with a design of retaking Crown-Point and Ticonderoga," and earnestly calling for a reinforcement and supplies. This letter being taken in consideration,

Resolved, That the governor of Connecticut be requested immediately to send a strong reinforcement to the garrisons of Crown-Point and Ticonderoga, and that so many of the cannon and other stores be retained, as may be necessary for the immediate defence of those posts, until further order from this Congress, and that the provincial convention of New-York be informed of this resolve, and desired to furnish those troops with provisions and other necessary stores, and to take effectual care that a sufficient number of bateaus be immediately provided for the lakes.

Ordered, That the above resolve be immediately transmitted in a letter by the president, to governor Trumbull, and the convention at New-York.

Ordered, That the President in his letter acquaint governor Trumbull, that it is the desire of Congress, that he should appoint a person, in whom he can confide, to command the forces at Crown-Point and Ticonderoga.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

THURSDAY June 1, 1775.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

The committee appointed to consider ways and means to supply these colonies with ammunition and military stores, brought in their report, which was read, and referred to the committee of the whole.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the government of Connecticut, or the general of the forces of that colony, to appoint commissaries to receive at Albany and forward the supplies of provisions, for the forces on lake Champlain, from the provincial convention of New-York, and that the said convention use their utmost endeavours in facilitating and aiding the transportation thereof, from thence to where the said commissaries may direct.

As this Congress has nothing more in view than the defence of these colonies,

Resolved, That no expedition or incursion ought to be undertaken or made, by any colony, or body of colonists, against or into Canada; and that this resolve be immediately transmitted to the commander of the forces at Ticonderoga.

Ordered, That the above resolve be translated into the French language, and transmitted, with the letter to the inhabitants of Canada.

Ordered, That the president transmit a copy of the above to New-York, and the other colonies bordering on Canada.

A petition from the committee representing the people in that part of Augusta county, in the colony of Virginia, on the west side of the Allegheny mountain, was laid before the Congress and read, intimating "fears of a rupture with the Indians on account of lord Dunmore's conduct," and desiring "commissioners from the colony of Virginia, and province of Pennsylvania, to attend a meeting of the Indians at Pittsburgh, on behalf of these colonies."

Ordered, That the above be referred to the delegates of the colonies of Virginia and Pennsylvania.

The Congress then, agreeable to the order of the day, resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the state of America, and after some time spent therein, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported from the committee, that they had taken the matters referred to them, into consideration but not having yet come to a conclusion, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will to-morrow again resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the state of America.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

FRIDAY, June 2, 1775.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

The president laid before the Congress a letter from the provincial convention of Massachusetts-Bay, dated May 16, which was read, setting forth the difficulties they labour under for want of a regular form of government, and as they and the other colonies are now compelled to raise an army to defend themselves from the butcheries and devastations of their implacable enemies, which renders it still more necessary to have a regular established government, requesting the Congress to favour them with "explicit advice respecting the taking up and exercising the powers of civil government," and declaring their readiness to "submit to such a general plan as the Congress may direct for the colonies, or make it their great study to establish such a form of government there, as shall not only promote their advantage, but the union and interest of all America."

Ordered, To lie on the table for farther consideration.

Doctor Benjamin Church being directed by the convention of Massachusetts-Bay, to confer with the Congress respecting such matters, as may be necessary to the defence of that colony, and particularly the state of the army therein;

Ordered, That he be introduced.

After he withdrew, an express arriving with dispatches from Massachusetts-Bay, the president laid before the Congress letters from the conventions of that colony, and New-Hampshire, also from governor Trumbull, which were read.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That no bill of Exchange, draught or order of any officer in the army or navy, their agents or contractors be received, or negotiated, or any money supplied to them by any person in America;

That no provisions or necessaries of any kind be furnished or supplied to, or for the use of the British army or navy, in the colony of Massachusetts-Bay;

That no vessel employed in transporting British troops to America, or from one part of North-America to another, or warlike stores or provisions for said troops be freighted or furnished with provisions or any necessaries, until further orders from this Congress.

Ordered, That the above resolves be immediately published.

The order of the day being postponed, the Congress adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

SATURDAY, June 5, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

A letter from the convention of New-York, together with sundry letters and papers enclosed, from Albany, were laid before the Congress and read.

Ordered, To lie on the table.

The letter from the convention of Massachusetts, dated the 16th May, being again read,

Resolved, That a committee of five persons be chosen to consider the same, and report what in their opinion is the proper advice to be given to that convention.

The following persons were chosen by ballot, to compose that committee, viz. Mr. J. Rutledge, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Jay, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Lee.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to draught a petition to the king.

That another committee of three be appointed to prepare an address to the inhabitants of Great-Britain.

That another committee of four be appointed to prepare an address to the people of Ireland.

That another committee of three be appointed to bring in the draught of a letter to the inhabitants of Jamaica.

That another committee of five be appointed to bring in an estimate of the money necessary to be raised.

The Congress then proceeded to chuse, by ballot, the several committees, when Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Johnston, Mr. J. Rutledge, Mr. Jay, and Mr. Franklin, were elected to compose the first; Mr. Lee, Mr. R. R. Livingston, and Mr. Pendleton, for the second; Mr. Duane, Mr. W. Livingston, Mr. S. Adams, and Mr. J. Adams, for the third; Mr. Hooper, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Lynch, for the fourth; and Mr. Wallington, Mr. Schuyler, Mr. Deane, Mr. Cushing, and Mr. Hewes, for the fifth.

Adjourned till Monday at nine o'clock.

On Monday and Tuesday the Congress met and adjourned, to give the committees time to bring in their report.

WEDNESDAY, June 7, 1775.

The Congress met according to adjournment.

The committee appointed to make an estimate of the money ne-

cessary to be raised, brought in their report, which was read and referred to the committee of the whole.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Thursday the 20th of July next, be observed throughout the twelve United Colonies, as a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer: and that Mr. Hooper, Mr. J. Adams, and Mr. Paine, be a committee to bring in a resolve for that purpose.

The committee appointed to prepare advice in answer to the letter from the convention of Massachusetts-Bay, brought in their report, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table for consideration.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved themselves into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the state of America; after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair; and Mr. Ward reported that the committee had proceeded in the business referred to them, but not having come to a conclusion, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will to-morrow again resolve themselves into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the state of America; and that this be a standing order till the business is completed.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

THURSDAY, June 8, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The Congress being informed, that a major Skene, with some other officers, who arrived last evening, in a vessel from London, were, with their papers, in the custody of the troops of this city; that the said Skene, has lately been appointed governor of the forts of Ticonderoga, and Crown-Point; that one of the officers with him, is a lieutenant in the regulars, now in the province of Quebec; and moreover, that the said Skene had declared, that he has authority to raise a regiment in America; from all this, apprehending that the said Skene is a dangerous partisan of administration, and that his papers may contain intelligence of ministerial designs against America, very important to be known;

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to examine the papers of the said Skene and lieutenant, in their presence:

That the committee consist of Mr. J. Adams, Mr. Deane, and Mr. Mifflin:

That the said committee be upon honour to conceal whatever, of a private nature, may come to their knowledge by such examination; and that they communicate, to this Congress, what they shall discover relative to the present dispute, between Great-Britain and America.

The remainder of the day being spent in a committee of the whole, on the state of America, the Congress adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

FRIDAY, June 9, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The report of the committee, on the letter from the convention of Massachusetts-Bay, being again read, the Congress came to the following resolution:

Resolved, That no obedience being due to the act of parliament for altering the charter of the colony of Massachusetts-Bay, nor to a governor, or a lieutenant-governor, who will not observe the directions of, but endeavour to subvert that charter, the governor and lieutenant-governor of that colony are to be considered as absent, and their offices vacant; and as there is no council there, and the inconveniencies, arising from the suspension of the powers of government, are intolerable, especially at a time when gen. Gage hath actually levied war, and is carrying on hostilities, against his majesty's peaceable and loyal subjects of that colony; that, in order to conform, as near as may be, to the spirit and substance of the charter, it be recommended to the provincial convention, to write letters to the inhabitants of the several places, which are intitled to representation in assembly, requesting them to chuse such representatives, and that the assembly, when chosen, do elect councilors; and that such assembly, or council, exercise the powers of government, until a governor, of his majesty's appointment, will consent to govern the colony according to its charter.

Ordered, That the president transmit a copy of the above to the convention of Massachusetts-Bay.

Adj. urned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

SATURDAY, June 10, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

Sundry letters, from Massachusetts-Bay, Ticonderoga, Crown-Point, &c. being laid before the Congress, were read; and the same being taken into consideration, the Congress came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several towns and districts in the colonies of Massachusetts-Bay, New-Hampshire, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, and the eastern division of New-Jersey, to collect all the salt-petre and brimstone in their several towns and districts, and transmit the same, with all possible dispatch, to the provincial convention at New-York.

That it be recommended to the provincial convention of the colony of New-York, to have the powder-mills, in that colony, put into such a condition, as immediately to manufacture, into gun-powder, for the use of the continent, whatever materials may be procured in the manner above-directed.

That it be recommended to the committees of the western division of New-Jersey, the colonies of Pennsylvania, lower counties on Delaware and Maryland, that they, without delay, collect the salt-petre and sulphur in their respective colonies, and transmit the

same for the committee of the city and liberties of Philadelphia; to the end, that those articles may be immediately manufactured into gun-powder, for the use of the continent.

That it be recommended to the conventions and committees of the colonies of Virginia, North-Carolina and South-Carolina, that they, without delay, collect the salt-petre and sulphur in their respective colonies, and procure these articles to be manufactured, as soon as possible, into gun-powder, for the use of the continent.

That it be recommended to the several inhabitants of the United Colonies, who are possessed of salt-petre and sulphur, for their own use, to dispose them for the purpose of manufacturing gun-powder.

That the salt-petre and sulphur, collected in consequence of the above resolves of Congress, be paid for out of the continental fund.

That Mr. Paine, Mr. Lee, Mr. Franklin, Mr. Schuyler and Mr. Johnson, be a committee to devise ways and means to introduce the manufacture of salt-petre in these colonies.

The committee for examining governor Skene's letters, &c. having communicated to Congress what they found relative to the dispute between Great-Britain and these colonies;

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That governor Philip Skene, lieutenant Moncrief, and Mr. Lundy, be released from their present confinement, and permitted to go at large any where within eight miles of the city, between Delaware and Schuylkill, on their parole of honour, not to pass those limits, and that they will hold no correspondence with any person whatsoever, on any political subject.

That Mr. Gadfield be added to the committee for examining governor Skene's papers, and that said committee have it in charge to execute the above resolve.

Adjourned till Monday at nine o'clock.

Monday, June 12, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The committee, appointed to prepare a resolution for a fast, brought in their report, which, being read, was agreed to as follows:

As the great Governor of the world, by his supreme and universal providence, not only conducts the course of nature with unerring wisdom and rectitude, but frequently influences the minds of men to serve the wise and gracious purposes of his providential government; and it being, at all times, our indispensable duty devoutly to acknowledge his superintending providence, especially in times of impending danger and public calamity, to reverence and adore his immutable justice, as well as to implore his merciful interposition for our deliverance:

This Congress, therefore, considering the present critical, alarming and calamitous state of these colonies, do earnestly recommend that Thursday, the 20th day of July next, be observed, by the inhabitants of all the English colonies on this continent, as a day of public humiliation, fasting and prayer; that we may, with united hearts and voices, unfeignedly confess and deplore our many sins; and of-

fer up our joint supplications to the all-wise, omnipotent, and merciful Disposer of all events; humbly beseeching him to forgive our iniquities, to remove our present calamities, to avert those desolating judgments, with which we are threatened, and to bless our rightful sovereign, king George the third, and to inspire him with wisdom to discern and pursue the true interest of his subjects, that a speedy end may be put to the civil discord between Great-Britain and the American colonies, without farther effusion of blood: And that the British nation may be influenced to regard the things that belong to her peace, before they are hid from her eyes: That these colonies may ever be under the care and protection of a kind Providence, and be prospered in all their interests; that the divine blessing may descend and rest upon all our civil rulers, and upon the representatives of the people, in their several assemblies and conventions, that they may be directed to wise and effectual measures for preserving the union, and securing the just rights and privileges of the colonies; that virtue and true religion may revive and flourish throughout our land; and that all America may soon behold a gracious interposition of heaven, for the redress of her many grievances, the restoration of her invaded rights, a reconciliation with the parent state, on terms constitutional and honourable to both; and that her civil and religious privileges may be secured to the latest posterity.

And it is recommended to Christians, of all denominations, to assemble for public worship, and to abstain from servile labour and recreation on said day.

Ordered, That a copy of the above be signed by the president, and attested by the secretary, and published in the newspapers, and in hand-bills.

The Congress then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the ways and means of raising money, and having spent thereon the remainder of the day, and the day following, adjourned till Wednesday at nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, June 14, 1773.

Met according to adjournment.

Agreeable to the standing order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the state of America; and after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported that the committee had come to certain resolutions, which he was ordered to report; but not having come to a conclusion, they desired him to move for leave to sit again.

The resolutions being read, were agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That six companies of expert riflemen, be immediately raised in Pennsylvania, two in Maryland, and two in Virginia; that each company consist of a captain, three lieutenants, four serjeants, four corporals, a drummer or trumpeter, and sixty-eight privates.

That each company, as soon as completed, march and join the

army near Boston, to be there employed as light-infantry, under the command of the chief officer in that army.

That the pay of the officers and privates be as follows, viz. a captain twenty dollars per month; a lieutenant thirteen dollars and one-third of a dollar per month; a serjeant eight dollars per month; a corporal seven dollars and one-third of a dollar per month; a drummer or trumpeter the same; privates six dollars and two-thirds of a dollar per month; to find their own arms and cloaths.

That the form of the indictment be in the following words :

I have, this day, voluntarily enlisted myself, as a soldier, in the American continental army, for one year, unless sooner discharged: And I do bind myself to conform, in all instances, to such rules and regulations, as are, or shall be, established for the government of the said army.

Upon motion, *Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to prepare rules and regulations for the government of the army.

The following persons were chosen to compose that committee, Mr. Washington, Mr. Schuyler, Mr. Deane, Mr. Cushing, and Mr. Hewes.

A letter from the convention of New-York, dated 10th instant, respecting a vessel which is stopped there, on suspicion of having on board provisions for the army and navy at Boston, was read and referred to the delegates of Massachusetts-Bay, Connecticut and New-York.

Resolved, That this Congress will to-morrow again resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into farther consideration the ways and means of raising money, and the state of America. This to be a standing order, until the business is completed.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.



THURSDAY, June 15, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The committee, to whom the letter from the convention of New-York was referred, brought in their report, which being read,

Resolved, That the thanks of this Congress be given to the convention of New-York, for their vigilance in the case of capt. Coffin's vessel, and that it be recommended to them that the vessel be unloaded, and the cargo safely stored, until all just suspicions, concerning the destination of it, shall be removed.

Ordered, That the above be transmitted, by the president, in a letter to the chairman of the convention of New-York.

Agreeable to order, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, and, after some time, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported, that the committee had come to some farther resolutions, which he was ordered to report.

The report of the committee being read and considered,

Resolved, That a general be appointed to command all the continental forces, raised, or to be raised, for the defence of American liberty.

That five hundred dollars, per month, be allowed for the pay and expenses of the general.

The Congress then proceeded to the choice of a general, by ballot, and George Washington, Esq; was unanimously elected.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eight o'clock.

FRIDAY, June 16, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The president informed col. Washington that the Congress had yesterday unanimously made choice of him to be general and commander in chief of the American forces, and requested he would accept of that employment; to which colonel Washington, standing in his place, answered:

“ *Mr. President,*

“ Though I am truly sensible of the high honour done me, in this appointment, yet I feel great distress, from a consciousness that my abilities and military experience may not be equal to the extensive and important trust: However, as the Congress desire it, I will enter upon the momentous duty, and exert every power I possess in their service, and for support of the glorious cause. I beg they will accept my most cordial thanks for this distinguished testimony of their approbation.

“ But, lest some unlucky event should happen, unfavourable to my reputation, I beg it may be remembered, by every gentleman in the room, that I, this day, declare with the utmost sincerity, I do not think myself equal to the command I am honoured with.

“ As to pay, sir, I beg leave to assure the Congress, that, as no pecuniary consideration could have tempted me to accept this arduous employment, at the expense of my domestic ease and happiness, I do not wish to make any profit from it. I will keep an exact account of my expenses. Those, I doubt not, they will discharge, and that is all I desire.”

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to draught a commission and instructions for the general.

The persons chosen, to compose the committee, were Mr. Lee, Mr. E. Rutledge, and Mr. J. Adams.

The papers transmitted from the convention of New-York, being read,

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of five, and that they report what steps, in their opinion, are necessary to be taken, for securing and preserving the friendship of the Indian nations.

The following persons chosen for this committee, viz. Mr. Schuyler, Mr. Henry, Mr. Duane, Mr. Wilton, and Mr. P. Livingston.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the report from the committee of the whole, and came to the following resolutions.

Resolved, That two major-generals be appointed for the American army.

That the pay of each of the major-generals be one hundred and sixty-six dollars per month.

That when any of these act in a separate department, he be allowed, for his pay and expenses, three hundred and thirty-two dollars per month.

That there be eight brigadiers-general.

That the pay of each of the brigadiers-general be one hundred and twenty-five dollars per month.

That there be one adjutant-general.

That his pay be one hundred and twenty-five dollars per month.

That there be one commissary-general of stores and provisions.

That his pay be eighty dollars per month.

That there be one quarter-master-general for the grand army, and one deputy, under him, for the separate army.

That the pay of the quarter-master-general be eighty dollars per month, and that of the deputy forty dollars per month.

That there be one pay-master-general, and a deputy, under him, for the army in a separate department; that the pay, for the pay-master-general himself, be one hundred dollars per month, and for the deputy pay-master, under him, fifty dollars per month.

That there be one chief engineer at the grand army, and that his pay be sixty dollars per month.

That two assistants be employed under him, and that the pay of each of them be twenty dollars per month.

That there be one chief engineer for the army, in a separate department, and two assistants under him; that the pay of the chief engineer be sixty dollars per month, and the pay of the assistants each twenty dollars per month.

That there be three aids-de-camp; and that their pay be thirty-three dollars per month each.

That there be a secretary to the general; and that his pay be sixty-six dollars per month.

That there be a secretary to the major-general, acting in a separate department; and that his pay be thirty-three dollars per month.

That there be a commissary of the musters.

That his pay be forty dollars per month.

A letter from the convention of New-York, received by express, was laid before the Congress and read, and the same being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That the provincial convention of New-York, be desired immediately to apply to governor Trumbull to order the Connecticut troops, now stationed at Greenwich, Stamford, and parts adjacent, to march towards New-York.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

SATURDAY, June 17, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The committee appointed to draught a commission to the gene-

ral, reported the same, which, being read by paragraphs and debated, was agreed to as follows :

IN CONGRESS.

The delegates of the United Colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Sussex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, and South-Carolina :

TO GEORGE WASHINGTON, ESQ;

We, reposing special trust and confidence in your patriotism, valour, conduct, and fidelity, do, by these presents, constitute and appoint you to be general and commander in chief, of the army of the United Colonies, and of all the forces now raised, or to be raised, by them, and of all others who shall voluntarily offer their service, and join the said army for the defence of American liberty, and for repelling every hostile invasion thereof: And you are hereby vested with full power and authority to act as you shall think for the good and welfare of the service.

And we do hereby strictly charge and require all officers and soldiers, under your command, to be obedient to your orders, and diligent in the exercise of their several duties.

And we do also enjoin and require you, to be careful in executing the great trust reposed in you, by causing strict discipline and order to be observed in the army, and that the soldiers be duly exercised, and provided with all convenient necessaries.

And you are to regulate your conduct in every respect by the rules and discipline of war, (as herewith given you,) and punctually to observe and follow such orders and directions, from time to time, as you shall receive from this, or a future Congress of these United Colonies, or committee of Congress.

This commission to continue in force, until revoked by this, or a future Congress.

By order of the Congress.

Ordered, That the same be fairly transcribed, signed by the president, attested by the secretary, and delivered to the general.

Resolved unanimously, Whereas, the delegates of all the colonies, from Nova-Scotia to Georgia, in Congress assembled, have unanimously chosen George Washington, Esq; to be general and commander in chief, of such forces as are, or shall be, raised for the maintenance and preservation of American liberty; this Congress doth now declare, that they will maintain and assist him, and adhere to him, the said George Washington, with their lives and fortunes in the same cause.

The Congress then proceeded to the choice of the officers in the army by ballot:

Artemus Ward, Esq; was chosen first major-general.

Horatio Gates, Esq; adjutant-general.

Resolved, That Horatio Gates, Esq; now chosen adjutant-general, shall have the rank of brigadier-general.

Charles Lee, Esq; second major-general.

Adjourned till Monday at nine o'clock.

MONDAY, June 19, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The president laid before the Congress, sundry letters he had received from Massachusetts-Bay and New-York, which were read.

Ordered, That Mr. Henry, Mr. Lynch, and Mr. J. Adams, be a committee to wait upon general Lee, and to inform him of his appointment, and request his answer, whether he will accept the command.

The committee returned and reported, that they had waited on general Lee, and informed him of his appointment, and that he gave for answer: "That he had the highest sense of the honour conferred upon him by the Congress; that no effort in his power shall be wanting to serve the American cause."

The letters from Massachusetts-Bay being taken into consideration, the Congress came to the following resolve:

That the governor of Connecticut be requested to direct all the forces raised in that colony, not employed at Ticonderoga and Crown-Point, or recommended by this Congress to be marched towards New-York, to be immediately sent to join the combined army before Boston: And it is earnestly recommended to the colony of Rhode-Island, and to the provincial convention of New-Hampshire, to send immediately to the army before Boston, such of the forces as are already embodied towards their quotas of the troops agreed to be raised by the New-England colonies.

Resolved, That Mr. Lee, Mr. E. Rutledge, and Mr. J. Adams, be a committee to prepare the form of a commission for the major-generals, also for the brigadier-generals, and other officers in the army.

Resolved, That there be four major-generals.

The Congress then proceeded to chuse the two remaining major-generals, when Philip Schuyler, Esq; was chosen third major-general, and Israel Putnam, Esq; was unanimously chosen fourth major-general.

The committee appointed to prepare the form of a commission for the major and brigadier-generals reported the same, which being agreed to,

Ordered, That a copy thereof be made out, signed by the president, and attested by the secretary, for each of the major-generals and brigadier-generals.

Ordered, That the secretary get a number of commissions, with proper blanks, printed for the other officers.

The committee appointed to prepare a petition to the king, reported a draught of one, which was read.

Adjourned till to-morrow nine o'clock.

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TUESDAY, June 20, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The committee, appointed to prepare instructions to the general, reported the same, which, being read and debated, were agreed to. Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, June 21, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

Mr. Thomas Jefferson appeared as a delegate for the colony of Virginia, and produced his credentials, which were read and approved, and are as follows:

At a convention of the delegates, for the counties and corporations in the colony of Virginia, at the town of Richmond, in the county of Henrico, on Monday, 27th March, 1775.

On a motion made, *Resolved*, That Thomas Jefferson, Esq; be appointed a deputy to represent this colony in general Congress, in the room of the honourable Peyton Randolph, Esq; in case of the non-attendance of the said Peyton Randolph, Esq;

Attest, *John Tazewell*, clerk of convention.

At a general assembly, began and held at the capitol, in the city of Williamsburgh, on Thursday, 1st June, in the fifteenth year of the reign of our lord, George the third, by the grace of God, of Great-Britain, &c. A. D. 1775.

Monday, 5th June, 15th G. III. 1775.

Resolved, N. C. D. That this house doth entirely approve of the proceedings and resolutions of the convention of delegates, for the counties and corporations in the colony of Virginia, held at Richmond town, in the county of Henrico, the 20th of March, 1775; and that it be recommended to all the good people of this colony, strictly to conform to, and observe the same.

By the house of burgeses,

Peyton Randolph, Speaker.

Mr. Henry informed the Congress, that the general had put into his hand sundry queries, to which he desired the Congress would give an answer.

The queries being read and debated,

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to prepare proper answers.

The persons chosen, were Mr. Deane, Mr. Henry, Mr. J. Rutledge, Mr. S. Adams, and Mr. Lee.

On a motion made, *Resolved*, That the general be allowed three aids-de-camp.

That each of the major-generals have two aids-de-camp.

That their pay be thirty-three dollars per month each.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

THURSDAY, June 22, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The committee appointed to prepare answers to the general's queries, reported the same which were read.

The Congress then came to the following resolutions :

Resolved, That the number of brigadier-generals be augmented to eight ; and the same were chosen by ballot, as follows :

Seth Pomeroy, Esq; first brigadier-general.

Richard Montgomery, Esq; second do.

David Worster, Esq; third do.

William Heath, Esq; fourth do.

Joseph Spencer, Esq; fifth do.

John Thomas, Esq; sixth do.

John Sullivan, Esq; seventh do.

Nathaniel Green, Esq; eighth do.

Resolved, That the troops, including the volunteers, be furnished with camp equipage, and blankets, where necessary, at the continental expense.

Resolved, That the officers, now in the army, receive their new commissions through the hands of the general.

Resolved. That a sum not exceeding two millions of Spanish milled dollars be emitted by the Congress in bills of credit, for the defence of America.

Resolved, That the twelve confederated colonies be pledged for the redemption of the bills of credit, now directed to be emitted.

Upon motion made, *Resolved*, That the colony of Pennsylvania raise two more companies of riflemen, and that these, with the six before ordered to be by them raised, making eight companies, be formed into a battalion, to be commanded by such field officers, captains, and lieutenants, as shall be recommended by the assembly or convention of said colony.

Adjourned till to-morrow nine o'clock.

TUESDAY, June 23, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

A letter from Crown-Point, dated June 10, was laid before the Congress and read. Information being given, that two officers who brought the letter were at the door, and had some things of importance to communicate,

Ordered, That they be introduced, and they were introduced. After they withdrew, the Congress came to the following resolutions :

Resolved, That it be recommended to the officer commanding in the New-York department, to procure, as soon as possible, a list of the men employed in taking and garrisoning Crown-Point and Ticonderoga, and keeping possession of the lakes, and also of their disbursements, in order that they may be paid.

Resolved, That their pay be the same as that of the officers and privates in the American army; the highest of the officers not to exceed that of a captain, and that the pay commence the third day of May last, and continue till they are discharged.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention of New-York, that they, consulting with general Schuyler, employ in the army to be raised for the defence of America, those called Green Mountain Boys, under such officers as the said Green Mountain Boys shall chuse.

On a motion made, *Resolved*, That a committee of five be chosen to draw up a declaration, to be published by general Washington, upon his arrival at the camp before Boston.

The committee chosen are Mr. J. Rutledge, Mr. W. Livingston, Mr. Franklin, Mr. Jay, and Mr. Johnson.

Agreeable to order, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into further consideration the state of America, and after some time spent therein, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported certain resolutions come into by them, and that not having yet finished, they desired leave to sit again.

The report of the committee being read, was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That the number and denomination of the bills to be emitted be as follows:

49,000 bills of	8 dollars each	— 392,000
49,000 do. of	7 dollars each	— 343,000
49,000 do. of	6 dollars each	— 294,000
49,000 do. of	5 dollars each	— 245,000
49,000 do. of	4 dollars each	— 196,000
49,000 do. of	3 dollars each	— 147,000
49,000 do. of	2 dollars each	— 98,000
49,000 do. of	1 dollar each	— 49,000
11,800 do. of	20 dollars each	— 236,000

Total 403,800

2,000,000

Resolved, That the form of the bills be as follows:

CONTINENTAL CURRENCY.

No.

Dollars.

THIS bill entitles the bearer to receive

Spanish milled dollars, or the value thereof in gold or silver, according to the resolutions of the Congress, held at Philadelphia, on the 10th day of May, A. D. 1775.

Resolved, That Mr. J. Adams, Mr. J. Rutledge, Mr. Duane, doctor Franklin, and Mr. Wilfon, be a committee to get proper plates engraved, to provide paper, and to agree with printers to print the above bills.

The order for a committee of the whole renewed, and the Congress adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

SATURDAY, June 24, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

On a motion made, *Resolved*, That a committee of seven be appointed to devise ways and means to put the militia of America in a proper state for the defence of America.

The members chosen are Mr. Paine, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Floyd, Mr. Gaddisen, and Mr. Dickinson.

The committee appointed to prepare a declaration to be published by general Washington, upon his arrival at the camp before Boston, brought in their report, which was read and debated, and after some time referred for farther consideration till Monday next.

Adjourned till Monday at nine o'clock.

MONDAY, June 26, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

A letter from governor Trumbull was read, and referred to the committee appointed to devise ways and means for introducing the manufacture of salt-petre into these colonies.

The state of North-Carolina being taken into consideration, the Congress came to the following resolutions:

Whereas it is represented to this Congress, that the enemies of the liberties of America are pursuing measures to divide the good people of the colony of North-Carolina, and to defeat the American association ;

Resolved, That it be recommended to all in that colony, who wish well to the liberties of America, to associate for the defence of American liberty, and to embody themselves as militia, under proper officers.

Resolved, That in case the assembly or convention of that colony shall think it absolutely necessary, for the support of the American association and safety of the colony, to raise a body of forces not exceeding one thousand men, this Congress will consider them as an American army, and provide for their pay.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the declaration, and after some debate,

Resolved, That it be re-committed, and that Mr. Dickinson and and Mr. Jefferon be added to the committee.

The committee for Indian affairs brought in their report, which was read.

Ordered, That the president write to governor Trumbull, and inform him, and also the conventions of New-Hampshire and Massachusetts-Bay, and the government of Rhode Island, that the Congress have appointed George Washington, Esq; commander in chief of all the forces raised or to be raised for the defence of America.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

TUESDAY, June 27, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

On motion made, *Resolved*, That governor Skene be sent under a guard to Weathersfield, or Middletown, in the county of Hartford, in Connecticut, there to be confined on his parole, not to go out of the bounds prescribed to him by governor Trumbull.

Ordered, That the delegates for Pennsylvania take measures to have the above resolve carried into execution.

A letter from the convention of Massachusetts-Bay, received by express, was laid before the Congress and read.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the state of affairs in the New-York department, and after some time spent therein, came to certain resolutions, which were ordered to be immediately transmitted to general Schuyler for his direction.

The committee appointed to draw up an address to the inhabitants of Great-Britain, reported the same, which was read.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, June 28, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The committee appointed to prepare a draught of rules and regulations for the government of the army, reported the same, which was read and taken into consideration. And the remainder of the day, and the day following being spent thereon, adjourned till the next day at nine o'clock.

FRIDAY, June 30, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the rules and regulations, which being gone through, were agreed to as follows :

Whereas his majesty's most faithful subjects in these colonies are reduced to a dangerous and critical situation, by the attempts of the British ministry, to carry into execution, by force of arms, several unconstitutional and oppressive acts of the British parliament for laying taxes in America, to enforce the collection of those taxes, and for altering and changing the constitution and internal police of some of these colonies, in violation of the natural and civil rights of the colonies.

And whereas hostilities have been actually commenced in Massachusetts-Bay, by the British troops, under the command of general Gage, and the lives of a number of the inhabitants of that colony destroyed ; the town of Boston not only having been long occupied as a garrisoned town in an enemy's country, but the inhabitants thereof treated with a severity and cruelty not to be justified even towards declared enemies.

And whereas large reinforcements have been ordered, and are soon expected, for the declared purpose of compelling these colonies to submit to the operation of the said acts, which hath rendered it necessary, and an indispensable duty, for the express purpose of securing and defending these colonies, and preserving them in safety against all attempts to carry the said acts into execution, that an armed force be raised sufficient to defeat such hostile designs, and preserve and defend the lives, liberties, and immunities of the colonists ; for the due regulating and well ordering of which :

Resolved, That the following rules and orders be attended to, and observed by such forces as are or may hereafter be raised for the purposes aforesaid.

Article I. That every officer who shall be retained, and every foldier who shall serve in the continental army, shall, at the time of his acceptance of his commission or enlistment, subscribe these rules and regulations. And that the officers and foldiers, already of that army, shall also, as soon as may be, subscribe the same; from the time of which subscription, every officer and foldier, shall be bound by those regulations. But if any of the officers or foldiers, now of the said army, do not subscribe these rules and regulations, then they may be retained in the said army, subject to the rules and regulations under which they entered into the service, or be discharged from the service, at the option of the commander in chief.

II. It is earnestly recommended to all officers and foldiers, diligently to attend divine service; and all officers and foldiers who shall behave indecently or irreverently at any place of divine worship, shall, if commissioned officers, be brought before a court-martial, there to be publicly and severely reprimanded by the president; if non-commissioned officers or foldiers, every person so offending, shall, for his first offence, forfeit one sixth of a dollar, to be deducted out of his next pay; for the second offence, he shall not only forfeit a like sum, but be confined for twenty-four hours, and for every like offence, shall suffer and pay in like manner; which money so forfeited, shall be applied to the use of the sick foldiers of the troop or company to which the offender belongs.

III. Whatsoever non-commissioned officer or foldier shall use any profane oath or execration, shall incur the penalties expressed in the foregoing article; and if a commissioned officer be thus guilty of profane cursing or swearing, he shall forfeit and pay for each and every such offence, the sum of four shillings, lawful money.

IV. Any officer or foldier, who shall behave himself with contempt or disrespect towards the general or generals, or commanders in chief of the continental forces, or shall speak false words, tending to his or their hurt or dishonour, shall be punished according to the nature of his offence, by the judgment of a general court-martial.

V. Any officer or foldier, who shall begin, excite, cause, or join in any mutiny or sedition, in the regiment, troop, or company to which he belongs, or in any other regiment, troop, or company of the continental forces, either by land or sea, or in any part, post, detachment, or guard, on any pretence whatsoever, shall suffer such punishment, as by a general court-martial shall be ordered.

VI. Any officer, non-commissioned officer, or foldier, who being present at any mutiny or sedition, does not use his utmost endeavours to suppress the same, or coming to the knowledge of any mutiny, or intended mutiny, does not, without delay, give information thereof to the commanding officer, shall be punished by order of a general court-martial, according to the nature of his offence.

VII. Any officer or foldier, who shall strike his superior officer.

or draw, or offer to draw, or shall lift up any weapon, or offer any violence against him, being in the execution of his office, on any pretence whatsoever, or shall disobey any lawful commands of his superior officer, shall suffer such punishment as shall, according to the nature of his offence, be ordered by the sentence of a general court-martial.

VIII. Any non-commissioned officer, or soldier, who shall desert, or without leave of his commanding officer, absent himself from the troop or company to which he belongs, or from any detachment of the same, shall, upon being convicted thereof, be punished according to the nature of his offence, at the discretion of a general court-martial.

IX. Whatsoever officer, or soldier, shall be convicted of having advised or persuaded any other officer, or soldier, to desert, shall suffer such punishment, as shall be ordered by the sentence of a general court-martial.

X. All officers, of what condition soever, shall have power to part and quell all quarrels, frays, and disorders, though the persons concerned, should belong to another regiment, troop, or company; and either order officers to be arrested, or non-commissioned officers, or soldiers, to be confined and imprisoned, till their proper superior officers shall be acquainted therewith; and whoever shall refuse to obey such officer, (though of an inferior rank,) or shall draw his sword upon him, shall be punished at the discretion of a general court-martial.

XI. No officer or soldier shall use any reproachful or provoking speeches or gestures to another, nor shall presume to send a challenge to any person to fight a duel: And whoever shall, knowingly and willingly, suffer any person whatsoever to go forth to fight a duel, or shall second, promote, or carry any challenge, shall be deemed as a principal; and whatsoever officer or soldier shall upbraid another for refusing a challenge, shall also be considered as a challenger; and all such offenders, in any of these or such like cases, shall be punished at the discretion of a general court-martial.

XII. Every officer, commanding in quarters or on a march, shall keep good order, and, to the utmost of his power, redress all such abuses or disorders which may be committed by any officer or soldier under his command: If upon any complaint being made to him, of officers or soldiers beating, or otherwise ill-treating any person, or of committing any kind of riot, to the disquieting of the inhabitants of this continent; he the said commander, who shall refuse or omit to see justice done on the offender or offenders, and reparation made to the party or parties injured, as far as the offender's wages shall enable him or them, shall, upon due proof thereof, be punished as ordered by a general court-martial, in such manner as if he himself had committed the crimes or disorders complained of.

XIII. If any officer should think himself to be wronged by his colonel or the commanding officer of the regiment, and shall, upon due application made to him, be refused to be redressed, he may com-

plain to the general or commander in chief of the continental forces, in order to obtain justice, who is hereby required to examine into said complaint, and see that justice be done.

XIV. If any inferior officer or soldier, shall think himself wronged by his captain or other officer commanding the troop or company to which he belongs, he is to complain thereof to the commanding officer of the regiment, who is hereby required to summon a regimental court-martial, for the doing justice to the complainant; from which regimental court-martial, either party may, if he thinks himself still aggrieved, appeal to a general court-martial; but if, upon a second hearing, the appeal shall appear to be vexatious and groundless, the person so appealing, shall be punished at the discretion of the general court-martial.

XV. Whatsoever non-commissioned officer or soldier, shall be convicted, at a regimental court-martial, of having fold, or designedly, or through neglect, wasted the ammunition, arms, or provisions, or other military stores, delivered out to him, to be employed in the service of this continent, shall, if an officer, be reduced to a private sentinel; and if a private soldier, shall suffer such punishment as shall be ordered by a regimental court-martial.

XVI. All non-commissioned officers and soldiers, who shall be found one mile from the camp, without leave in writing from their commanding officer, shall suffer such punishment as shall be inflicted on him or them by the sentence of a regimental court-martial.

XVII. No officer or soldier shall lie out of his quarters or camp, without leave from the commanding officer of the regiment, upon penalty of being punished according to the nature of his offence, by order of a regimental court-martial.

XVIII. Every non-commissioned officer and soldier shall retire to his quarters, or tent, at the beating of the retreat; in default of which, he shall be punished according to the nature of his offence, by order of the commanding officer.

XIX. No officer, non-commissioned officer or soldier, shall fail of repairing, at the time fixed, to the place of parade or exercise, or other rendezvous appointed by the commanding officer, if not prevented by sickness or some other evident necessity; or shall go from the said place of rendezvous, or from his guard, without leave from his commanding officer, before he shall be regularly dismissed or relieved, on penalty of being punished according to the nature of his offence, by the sentence of a regimental court-martial.

XX. Whatsoever commissioned officer shall be found drunk on his guard, party, or duty, under arms, shall be cashiered for it; any non-commissioned officer or soldier so offending, shall suffer such punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a regimental court-martial.

XXI. Whatsoever sentinel shall be found sleeping upon his post, or shall leave it before he shall be regularly relieved, shall suffer such punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a general court-martial.

XXII. Any person belonging to the continental army, who, by discharging of fire-arms, beating of drums, or by any other means whatsoever, shall occasion false alarms, in camp or quarters, shall suffer such punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a general court-martial.

XXIII. Any officer or soldier, who shall, without urgent necessity, or without leave of his superior officer, quit his platoon or division, shall be punished according to the nature of his offence, by the sentence of a regimental court-martial.

XXIV. No officer or soldier shall do violence, or offer any insult, or abuse, to any person who shall bring provisions, or other necessaries, to the camp or quarters of the continental army; any officer or soldier so offending, shall, upon complaint being made to the commanding officer, suffer such punishment as shall be ordered by a regimental court-martial.

XXV. Whatsoever officer or soldier shall shamefully abandon any post committed to his charge, or shall speak words inducing others to do the like, in time of an engagement, shall suffer death immediately.

XXVI. Any person belonging to the continental army, who shall make known the watch-word to any person who is not entitled to receive it, according to the rules and discipline of war, or shall presume to give a parole, or watch-word, different from what he received, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as shall be ordered by the sentence of a general court-martial.

XXVII. Whosoever belonging to the continental army, shall relieve the enemy with money, victuals, or ammunition, or shall knowingly harbour or protect an enemy, shall suffer such punishment as by a general court-martial shall be ordered.

XXVIII. Whosoever belonging to the continental army, shall be convicted of holding correspondence with, or of giving intelligence to the enemy, either directly or indirectly, shall suffer such punishment as by a general court-martial shall be ordered.

XXIX. All public stores taken in the enemy's camp or magazines, whether of artillery, ammunition, cloathing, or provisions, shall be secured for the use of the United Colonies.

XXX. If any officer or soldier shall leave his post or colours, in time of an engagement, to go in search of plunder, he shall, upon being convicted thereof before a general court-martial, suffer such punishment as by the said court-martial shall be ordered.

XXXI. If any commander of any post, intrenchment, or fortress, shall be compelled, by the officers or soldiers under his command, to give it up to the enemy, or to abandon it, the commissioned officer, non-commissioned officers, or soldiers, who shall be convicted of having so offended, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as may be inflicted upon them by the sentence of a general court-martial.

XXXII. All sutlers and retailers to a camp, and all persons whatsoever, serving with the continental army in the field, though

not enlisted foldiers, are to be subject to the articles, rules, and regulations of the continental army.

XXXIII. No general court-martial shall consist of a less number than thirteen, none of which shall be under the degree of a commissioned officer; and the president shall be a field officer: And the president of each and every court-martial, whether general or regimental, shall have power to administer an oath to every witness, in order to the trial of offenders. And the members of all courts-martial shall be duly sworn by the president; and the next in rank on the court-martial, shall administer the oath to the president.

XXXIV. The members, both of general and regimental courts-martial, shall, when belonging to different corps, take the same rank which they hold in the army; but when courts-martial shall be composed of officers of one corps, they shall take their ranks according to their commissions by which they are mustered in the said corps.

XXXV. All the members of a court-martial, are to behave with calmness, decency, and impartiality; and in giving of their votes, are to be in with the youngest or lowest in commission.

XXXVI. No field officer shall be tried by any person under the degree of a captain; nor shall any proceedings or trials be carried on, excepting between the hours of eight in the morning, and three in the afternoon, except in cases which require an immediate example.

XXXVII. The commissioned officers of every regiment may, by the appointment of their colonel or commanding officer, hold regimental courts-martial for the enquiring into such disputes or criminal matters as may come before them, and for the inflicting corporal punishment, for small offences, and shall give judgment by the majority of voices; but no sentence shall be executed till the commanding officer (not being a member of the court-martial) shall have confirmed the same.

XXXVIII. No regimental court-martial shall consist of less than five officers, excepting in cases where that number cannot be conveniently assembled, when three may be sufficient; who are likewise to determine upon the sentence by the majority of voices; which sentence is to be confirmed by the commanding officer, not being a member of the court-martial.

XXXIX. Every officer, commanding in any fort, castle, or barrack, or elsewhere, where the corps under his command consists of detachments from different regiments, or of independent companies, may assemble courts-martial for the trial of offenders in the same manner as if they were regimental, whose sentence is not to be executed till it shall be confirmed by the said commanding officer.

XL. No person whatsoever shall use menacing words, signs, or gestures in the presence of a court-martial then sitting, or shall cause any disorder or riot, so as to disturb their proceeding, on the penalty of being punished at the discretion of the said court-martial.

XLI. To the end that offenders may be brought to justice; whenever any officer or soldier shall commit a crime deserving punishment,

he shall by his commanding officer, if an officer, be put in arrest; if a non-commissioned officer or soldier, be imprisoned till he shall be either tried by a court-martial, or shall be lawfully discharged by proper authority.

XLII. No officer or soldier who shall be put in arrest, or imprisonment, shall continue in his confinement more than eight days, or till such time as a court-martial can be conveniently assembled.

XLIII. No officer commanding a guard, or provost-marshal, shall refuse to receive or keep any prisoner committed to his charge, by an officer belonging to the continental forces; which officer shall at the same time deliver an account in writing, signed by himself, of the crime with which the said prisoner is charged.

XLIV. No officer commanding a guard, or provost-marshal, shall presume to release any prisoner committed to his charge, without proper authority for so doing; nor shall he suffer any prisoner to escape, on the penalty of being punished for it, by the sentence of a general court-martial.

XLV. Every officer or provost-marshal, to whose charge prisoners shall be committed, is hereby required, within twenty-four hours after such commitment, or as soon as he shall be relieved from his guard, to give in writing to the colonel of the regiment to whom the prisoner belongs (where the prisoner is confined upon the guard belonging to the said regiment, and that his offence only relates to the neglect of duty in his own corps) or to the commander in chief, their names, their crimes, and the names of the officers who committed them, on the penalty of being punished for his disobedience or neglect, at the discretion of a general court-martial.

XLVI. And if any officer under arrest shall leave his confinement before he is set at liberty by the officer who confined him, or by a superior power, he shall be cashiered for it.

XLVII. Whatsoever commissioned officer shall be convicted before a general court-martial, of behaving in a scandalous, infamous manner, such as is unbecoming the character of an officer and a gentleman, shall be discharged from the service.

XLVIII. All officers, conductors, gunners, matrosses, drivers, or any other persons whatsoever, receiving pay or hire, in the service of the continental artillery, shall be governed by the aforesaid rules and articles, and shall be subject to be tried by courts-martial, in like manner with the officers and soldiers of the continental troops.

XLIX. For differences arising amongst themselves, or in matters relating solely to their own corps, the courts-martial may be composed of their own officers; but were a number sufficient of such officers cannot be assembled, or in matters wherein other corps are interested, the officers of artillery shall sit in courts-martial, with the officers of the other corps.

L. All crimes, not capital, and all disorders and neglects, which officers and soldiers may be guilty of, to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, though not mentioned in the articles

of war, are to be taken cognizance of by a general or regimental court-martial, according to the nature and degree of the offence, and be punished at their discretion.

LI. That no persons shall be sentenced by a court-martial to suffer death, except in the cases expressly mentioned in the foregoing articles; nor shall any punishment be inflicted at the discretion of a court-martial, other than degrading, cashiering, drumming out of the army, whipping not exceeding thirty-nine lashes, fine not exceeding two months pay of the offender, imprisonment not exceeding one month.

LII. The field officers of each and every regiment are to appoint some suitable person belonging to such regiment, to receive all such fines as may arise within the same, for any breach of any of the foregoing articles, and shall direct the same to be carefully and properly applied to the relief of such sick, wounded, or necessitous soldiers, as belong to such regiment; and such person shall account with such officer for all fines received, and the application thereof.

LIII. All members sitting in courts-martial shall be sworn by the president of said courts, which president shall himself be sworn by the officer in said court next in rank:—The oath to be administered previous to their proceeding to the trial of any offender, in form following, viz.

“ You A. B. swear that you will well and truly try, and impartially determine the cause of the prisoner now to be tried, according to the rules for regulating the continental army. So help you God.

LIV. All persons called to give evidence, in any case, before a court-martial, who shall refuse to give evidence, shall be punished for such refusal at the discretion of such court-martial:—The oath to be administered in the following form, viz.

“ You swear the evidence you shall give in the case now in hearing, shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, So help you God.”

LV. Every officer commanding a regiment, troop, or company, shall, upon notice given to him by the commissary of the musters, or from one of his deputies, assemble the regiment, troop, or company under his command, in the next convenient place for their being mustered.

LVI. Every colonel or other field officer, or officer commanding any corps, to which there is no field officer, and actually residing with it, may give furloughs to non-commissioned officers and soldiers, in such numbers, and for so long a time, as he shall judge to be most consistent with the good of the service; but no non-commissioned officer or soldier shall, by leave of his captain, or inferior officer, commanding the troop or company (his field officer, not being present) be absent above twenty days in six months, nor shall more than two private men be absent at the same time from their troop or company, excepting some extraordinary occasion should require it, of which occasion the field officer present with and commanding the regiment or independent corps, is to be judge.

LVII. At every muster the commanding officer of each regiment, troop, or company, then present, shall give to the commissary of musters certificates signed by himself, signifying how long such officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers, who shall not appear at the said muster, have been absent, and the reason of their absence; which reasons, and the time of absence, shall be inserted in the muster-rolls, opposite to the respective names of such absentees: The said certificates shall, together with the muster-rolls, be by the said commissary transmitted to the general, and to this or any future Congress of the United Colonies, or committee appointed thereby, within twenty days next after such muster being taken; on failure whereof, the commissary so offending, shall be discharged from the service.

LVIII. Every officer who shall be convicted before a general court-martial of having signed a false certificate, relating to the absence of either officers, non-commissioned officer, or private soldier, shall be cashiered.

LIX. Every officer, who shall knowingly make a false muster of man or horse, and every officer or commissary who shall willingly sign, direct, or allow the signing of the muster-rolls, wherein such false muster is contained, shall, upon proof made thereof, by two witnesses, before a general court-martial be cashiered, and moreover forfeit all such pay as may be due to him at the time of conviction for such offence.

LX. Any commissary who shall be convicted of having taken any gift or gratuity on the mustering any regiment, troop, or company, or on the signing the muster-rolls, shall be displaced from his office, and forfeit his pay, as in the preceding article.

LXI. Any officer, who shall presume to muster any person as a soldier, who is at other times accustomed to wear a livery, or who does not actually do his duty as a soldier, shall be deemed guilty of having made a false muster, and shall suffer accordingly.

LXII. Every officer who shall knowingly make a false return to the commander in chief of the American forces, or to any his superior officer, authorized to call for such returns, of the state of the regiment, troop, independent company, or garrison under his command, or of arms, ammunition, cloathing, or other stores thereunto belonging, shall, by a court-martial, be cashiered.

LXIII. The commanding officer of every regiment, troop, independent company or garrison, in the service aforesaid, shall, in the beginning of every month remit to the commander in chief of said forces, an exact return of the state of the regiment, troop, independent company, or garrison under his command, specifying the names of the officers not then residing at their posts, and the reason for, and the time of their absence: whoever shall be convicted of having, through neglect or design, omitted the sending such returns, shall be punished according to the nature of his crime, by the judgment of a general court-martial.

LXIV. No suttler shall be permitted to sell any kind of liquors

or victuals, or to keep their houses or shops open, for the entertainment of foldiers, after nine at night, or before the beating of the reveilles, or upon Sundays, during divine service or sermon, on the penalty of being dismissed from all future sutling.

LXV. All officers commanding in the camp, or in any forts, barracks, or garrisons, are hereby required to see that the persons permitted to suttle shall supply the foldiers with good and wholesome provisions at a reasonable price, as they shall be answerable for their neglect.

LXVI. No officers commanding in any camp, garrisons, forts, or barracks, shall either themselves exact exorbitant prices for houses or stalls let out to suttlers, or shall connive at the like exactions in others, nor lay any duty or impositions upon, or be interested in the sale of such victuals, liquors, or other necessaries of life, which are brought into the camp, garrison, fort, or barracks, for the use of the foldiers, on the penalty of being discharged from the service.

LXVII. That the general, or commander in chief for the time being, shall have full power of pardoning, or mitigating any of the punishments ordered to be inflicted, for any of the offences mentioned in the foregoing articles; and every offender, convicted as aforesaid, by any regimental court-martial, may be pardoned, or have his punishment mitigated by the colonel or officer commanding the regiment.

LXVIII. When any commissioned officer shall happen to die, or be killed in the service of the United Colonies, the major of the regiment, or the officer doing the major's duty in his absence, shall immediately secure all his effects or equipage, then in camp or quarters; and shall before the next regimental court-martial, make an inventory thereof, and forthwith transmit to the office of the secretary of the Congress, or assembly of the province in which the corps is stationed or shall happen to be at the time of the death of such officer; to the end that his executors may, after payment of his debts in quarters, and interment, receive the overplus, if any be, to his or their use.

LXIX. When any non-commissioned officer or private soldier, shall happen to die, or be killed in the service of the United Colonies, the then commanding officer of the troop or company, shall, in the presence of two other commissioned officers, take an account of whatever effects he dies possessed of, and transmit the same, as in the case above provided for, in order that the same may be secured for, and paid to their respective representatives.*

Ordered, That Mr. Deane, Mr. Cushing, and Mr. Hewes, be a committee to revise them for the press, and to get them printed.

* *In Congress, November 7, 1775.*

Resolved, That the following additions and alterations or amendments, be made in the RULES and REGULATIONS of the Continental army.

1. All persons convicted of holding a treacherous correspond-

Resolved, That the Congress will, on Monday next, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to consider the trade of these colonies.

ence with, or giving intelligence to the enemy, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as a general court-martial shall think proper.

2. All commissioned officers found guilty by a general court-martial of any fraud or embezzlement, shall forfeit all his pay, be *ipso facto* cashiered, and deemed unfit for further service as an officer.

3. All non-commissioned officers and soldiers, convicted before a regimental court-martial of stealing, embezzling or destroying ammunition, provision, tools, or any thing belonging to the public stores, if a non-commissioned officer, to be reduced to the ranks, and punished with whipping, not less than fifteen, nor more than thirty-nine lashes, at the discretion of the court-martial; if a private soldier, with the same corporal punishment.

4. In all cases where a commissioned officer is cashiered for cowardice or fraud, it be added in the punishment, that the crime, name, place of abode, and punishment of the delinquent be published in the newspapers, in and about the camp, and of that colony from which the offender came, or usually resides: After which it shall be deemed scandalous in any officer to associate with him.

5. Any officer or soldier, who shall begin, excite, cause, or join in any mutiny or sedition in the regiment, troop, or company to which he belongs, or in any other regiment, troop, or company of the continental forces, either by land or sea, or in any party, post, detachment, or guard, on any pretence whatsoever, shall suffer death, or such other punishment, as a general court-martial shall direct.

6. Any officer or soldier, who shall desert to the enemy, and afterwards be taken, shall suffer death, or such other punishment, as a general court-martial shall direct.

7. Whatsoever commissioned officer shall be found drunk on his guard, party, or other duty under arms, shall be cashiered and drummed out of the army with infamy; any non-commissioned officer or soldier, so offending, shall be sentenced to be whipt, not less than twenty, nor more than thirty-nine lashes, according to the nature of the offence.

8. Whatsoever officer or soldier, placed as a sentinel, shall be found sleeping upon his post, or shall leave it before he shall be regularly relieved, if a commissioned officer, shall be cashiered, and drummed out of the army with infamy; if a non-commissioned officer or soldier, shall be sentenced to be whipped, not less than twenty, nor more than thirty-nine lashes, according to the nature of the offence.

9. No officer or soldier shall lie out of his quarters or camp, without leave from the commanding officer of the regiment, upon

A number of letters and speeches from the Stockbridge Indians were laid before the Congress and read :

Resolved, That the committee for Indian affairs, do prepare proper talks to the several tribes of Indians, for engaging the continuance of their friendship to us, and neutrality in our present unhappy dispute with Great-Britain.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

penalty, if an officer, of being mulcted one month's pay for the first offence, and cashiered for the second ; if a non-commissioned officer or soldier, of being confined seven days on bread and water for the first offence ; and the same punishment and a forfeiture of a week's pay for the second.

10. Whatsoever officer or soldier shall misbehave himself before the enemy, or shamefully abandon any post committed to his charge, or shall speak words inducing others to do the like, shall suffer death.

11. All public stores taken in the enemy's camp or magazines, whether of artillery, ammunition, cloathing, or provisions, shall be secured for the use of the United Colonies : And all commissioned officers, found guilty by general court-martial, of embezzling the same ; or any of them, shall forfeit all his pay, be *ipso facto* cashiered, and deemed unfit for farther service as an officer. And all non-commissioned officers and soldiers, convicted before a regimental court-martial of stealing or embezzling the same, if a non-commissioned officer, shall be reduced to the ranks, and punished with whipping, not less than fifteen, nor more than thirty-nine lashes, at the discretion of the court-martial ; if a private soldier, with the same punishment.

12. If any officer or soldier, shall leave his post or colours, in time of an engagement, to go in search of plunder, he shall, if a commissioned officer, be cashiered, and drummed out of the army with infamy, and forfeit all share of plunder ; if a non-commissioned officer or soldier, be whipped, not less than twenty, nor more than thirty-nine lashes, according to the nature of the offence, and forfeit all share of the plunder taken from the enemy.

13. Every officer commanding a regiment, troop, or company, shall, upon notice given to him by the commissary of the musters, or from one of his deputies, assemble the regiment, troop, or company under his command, in the next convenient place for their being mustered, on penalty of his being cashiered, and mulcted of his pay.

14. At every muster, the commanding officer of each regiment, troop or company there present, shall give to the commissary of musters, certificates signed by himself, signifying how long such officers, non-commissioned officers and soldiers, who shall not appear at the said muster, have been absent, and the reason of their absence, which reasons and the time of absence, shall be inserted in the muster rolls, opposite the names of such absentees : And the surgeons or their mates, shall at the same time give to the com-

SATURDAY, July 1, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

On motion made, *Resolved*, That in case any agent of the ministry shall induce the Indian tribes, or any of them, to commit actual hostilities against these colonies, or to enter into an offensive alliance with the British troops, thereupon the colonies ought to avail themselves of an alliance with such Indian nations as will enter into the same, to oppose such British troops and their Indian allies.

Letters being received by express from general Schuyler, which required an immediate answer, were laid before Congress, and after due deliberation, an answer was returned.

On motion made, *Resolved*, That lieutenant Patrick Moncrief have liberty to return to England, on giving his parole of honour, that he will not act against the Americans in the present controversy between Great-Britain and these colonies.

Adjourned till Monday at nine o'clock.

MONDAY, July 3, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

Sundry letters being laid before the Congress, were read.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to consider the trade of these colonies, and after some time, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported a resolution they had come to.

The resolution of the committee being read, was at the desire of the colony of South-Carolina, referred for farther consideration till to-morrow.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

military of musters, a certificate signed by them, signifying the state of health or sickness of those under their care, and the said certificate shall, together with the muster rolls, be by the said commissary transmitted to the general, and to this or any future Congress of the United Colonies, or committee appointed thereby, within twenty days next after such muster being taken, on failure whereof, the commissary so offending, shall be discharged from the service.

15. Every officer who shall be convicted before a general court-martial, of having signed a false certificate relating to the absence of either officer, non-commissioned officer, or private soldier; and every surgeon or mate, convicted of signing a false certificate, relating to the health or sickness of those under his care, shall be cashiered.

16. All officers and soldiers who shall wilfully or through negligence, disobey any general or special orders, shall be punished at the discretion of a regimental court-martial, where the offence is against a regimental order, and at the discretion of a general court-martial, where the offence is against an order given from the commander in chief, or the commanding officer of any detachment or post, and such general court-martial can be had.

TUESDAY, July 4, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The report from the committee of the whole being resumed and debated, was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That the two acts passed in the first session of the present parliament, the one intituled "An act to restrain the trade and commerce of the province of Massachusetts-Bay and New-Hampshire, and the colonies of Connecticut and Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, in North-America, to Great-Britain, Ireland, and the British islands in the West-Indies; and to prohibit such provinces and colonies from carrying on any fishery on the banks of Newfoundland or other places therein mentioned, under certain conditions and limitations." The other intituled "An act to restrain the trade and commerce of the colonies of New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and South-Carolina, to Great-Britain, Ireland, and the British islands in the West-Indies, under certain conditions and limitations," are unconstitutional, oppressive, and cruel; and that the commercial opposition of these colonies, to certain acts enumerated in the association of the last Congress, ought to be made against these, until they are repealed.

Ordered, That the above be immediately published.

The petition to the king being again read, after some debate, the further consideration of it was deferred till to-morrow.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, July 5, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

Several letters were laid before the Congress and read.

It appearing that governor Philip Skene and Mr. Lundy have designs inimical to America:

Ordered, That it be recommended to the delegates of the colony of Pennsylvania, to have the order of Congress of the 27th of June last, respecting the sending governor Skene to Connecticut, immediately carried into execution.

Resolved, That Mr. Lundy be sent under guard along with governor Skene to Connecticut, there to be confined in the same manner as is ordered with respect to governor Skene.

Resolved, That such provision be made for the support of governor Skene and Mr. Lundy, as governor Trumbull shall think proper, at the expense of the United Colonies.

Ordered, That the president write to governor Trumbull on this subject, and enclose him the above orders and resolves.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the petition to the king, and the same being debated by paragraphs, was agreed to, and ordered to be engrossed.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

THURSDAY, July 6, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The Congress took into consideration the address to the inhabitants of Great-Britain, and after some debate, the same was re-committed.

The committee to whom the declaration was re-committed brought in the same, which being again read, and debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows :

A declaration by the Representatives of the United Colonies of North-America, now met in Congress at Philadelphia, setting forth the causes and necessity of their taking up arms.

IF it was possible for men, who exercise their reason to believe, that the divine Author of our existence intended a part of the human race to hold an absolute property in, and an unbounded power over others, marked out by his infinite goodness and wisdom, as the objects of a legal domination never rightfully resistible, however severe and oppressive, the inhabitants of these colonies might at least require from the parliament of Great-Britain some evidence, that this dreadful authority over them, has been granted to that body. But a reverence for our great Creator, principles of humanity, and the dictates of common sense, must convince all those who reflect upon the subject, that government was instituted to promote the welfare of mankind, and ought to be administered for the attainment of that end. The legislature of Great-Britain, however, stimulated by an inordinate passion for a power not only unjustifiable, but which they know to be peculiarly reprobated by the very constitution of that kingdom, and desperate of success in any mode of contest, where regard should be had to truth, law, or right, have at length, deserting those, attempted to effect their cruel and impolitic purpose of enslaving these colonies by violence, and have thereby rendered it necessary for us to close with their last appeal from reason to arms.—Yet, however blinded that assembly may be, by their intemperate rage for unlimited domination, so to slight justice and the opinion of mankind, we esteem ourselves bound by obligations of respect to the rest of the world, to make known the justice of our cause.

Our forefathers, inhabitants of the island of Great-Britain, left their native land, to seek on these shores a residence for civil and religious freedom. At the expense of their blood, at the hazard of their fortunes, without the least charge to the country from which they removed, by unceasing labour, and an unconquerable spirit, they effected settlements in the distant and inhospitable wilds of America, then filled with numerous and warlike nations of barbarians.—Societies or governments, vested with perfect legislatures, were formed under charters from the crown, and an harmonious intercourse was established between the colonies and the kingdom from which they derived their origin. The mutual benefits of this union became in a short time so extraordinary, as to excite astonishment. It is universally confessed, that the amazing increase of the wealth, strength, and navigation of the realm, arose from this

source ; and the minister, who so wisely and successfully directed the measures of Great-Britain in the late war, publicly declared, that these colonies enabled her to triumph over her enemies.—Towards the conclusion of that war, it pleased our sovereign to make a change in his counsels.—From that fatal moment, the affairs of the British empire began to fall into confusion, and gradually sliding from the summit of glorious prosperity, to which they had been advanced by the virtues and abilities of one man, are at length distracted by the convulsions, that now shake it to its deepest foundations.—The new ministry finding the brave foes of Britain, though frequently defeated, yet still contending, took up the unfortunate idea of granting them a hasty peace, and of then subduing her faithful friends.

These devoted colonies were judged to be in such a state, as to present victories without bloodshed, and all the easy emoluments of statuteable plunder.—The uninterrupted tenor of their peaceable and respectful behaviour from the beginning of colonization, their dutiful, zealous, and useful services during the war, though so recently and amply acknowledged in the most honourable manner by his majesty, by the late king, and by parliament, could not save them from the meditated innovations.—Parliament was influenced to adopt the pernicious project, and assuming a new power over them, have in the course of eleven years, given such decisive specimens of the spirit and consequences attending this power, as to leave no doubt concerning the effects of acquiescence under it. They have undertaken to give and grant our money without our consent, though we have ever exercised an exclusive right to dispose of our own property ; statutes have been passed for extending the jurisdiction of courts of admiralty and vice-admiralty beyond their ancient limits ; for depriving us of the accustomed and inestimable privilege of trial by jury, in cases affecting both life and property ; for suspending the legislature of one of the colonies ; for interdicting all commerce to the capital of another ; and for altering fundamentally the form of government established by charter, and secured by acts of its own legislature solemnly confirmed by the crown ; for exempting the “murderers” of colonists from legal trial, and in effect, from punishment ; for erecting in a neighbouring province, acquired by the joint arms of Great-Britain and America, a despotism dangerous to our very existence ; and for quartering soldiers upon the colonists in time of profound peace. It has also been resolved in parliament, that colonists charged with committing certain offences, shall be transported to England to be tried.

But why should we enumerate our injuries in detail ? By one statute it is declared, that parliament can “of right make laws to bind us in all cases whatsoever.” What is to defend us against so enormous, so unlimited a power ? Not a single man of these who assume it, is chosen by us ; or is subject to our controul or influence ; but, on the contrary, they are all of them exempt from the operation of such laws, and an American revenue, if not diverted from the

ostensible purposes for which it is raised, would actually lighten their own burdens in proportion, as they increase ours. We saw the misery to which such despotism would reduce us. We for ten years incessantly and ineffectually besieged the throne as supplicants; we reasoned, we remonstrated with parliament, in the most mild and decent language.

Administration sensible that we should regard these oppressive measures as freemen ought to do, sent over fleets and armies to enforce them. The indignation of the Americans was roused, it is true; but it was the indignation of a virtuous, loyal, and affectionate people. A Congress of delegates from the United Colonies was assembled at Philadelphia, on the fifth day of last September. We resolved again to offer an humble and dutiful petition to the king, and also addressed our fellow-subjects of Great-Britain. We have pursued every temperate, every respectful measure: we have even proceeded to break off our commercial intercourse with our fellow-subjects, as the last peaceable admonition, that our attachment to no nation upon earth should supplant our attachment to liberty. —This, we flattered ourselves, was the ultimate step of the controversy: but subsequent events have shewn, how vain was this hope of finding moderation in our enemies.

Several threatening expressions against the colonies were inserted in his majesty's speech; our petition, tho' we were told it was a decent one, and that his majesty had been pleased to receive it graciously, and to promise laying it before his parliament, was huddled into both houses among a bundle of American papers, and there neglected. The lords and commons in their address, in the month of February, said, that "a rebellion at that time actually existed within the province of Massachusetts-Bay; and that those concerned in it, had been countenanced and encouraged by unlawful combinations and engagements, entered into by his majesty's subjects in several of the other colonies; and therefore they besought his majesty, that he would take the most effectual measures to enforce due obedience to the laws and authority of the supreme legislature."—Soon after, the commercial intercourse of whole colonies, with foreign countries, and with each other, was cut off by an act of parliament; by another several of them were intirely prohibited from the fisheries in the seas near their coasts, on which they always depended for their sustenance; and large reinforcements of ships and troops were immediately sent over to general Gage.

Fruitless were all the entreaties, arguments, and eloquence of an illustrious band of the most distinguished peers, and commoners, who nobly and strenuously asserted the justice of our cause, to stay, or even to mitigate the heedless fury with which these accumulated and unexampled outrages were hurried on.—Equally fruitless was the interference of the city of London, of Bristol, and many other respectable towns in our favour. Parliament adopted an insidious manœuvre calculated to divide us, to establish a perpetual auction of taxations where colony should bid against colony, all of them

uninformed what ransom would redeem their lives ; and thus to extort from us, at the point of the bayonet, the unknown sums that should be sufficient to gratify, if possible to gratify, ministerial rapacity, with the miserable indulgence left to us of raising, in our own mode, the prescribed tribute. What terms more rigid and humiliating could have been dictated by remorseless victors to conquered enemies ? in our circumstances to accept them, would be to deserve them.

Soon after the intelligence of these proceedings arrived on this continent, general Gage, who in the course of the last year had taken possession of the town of Boston, in the province of Massachusetts-Bay, and still occupied it as a garrison, on the 19th day of April, sent out from that place a large detachment of his army, who made an unprovoked assault on the inhabitants of the said province, at the town of Lexington, as appears by the affidavits of a great number of persons, some of whom were officers and soldiers of that detachment, murdered eight of the inhabitants, and wounded many others. From thence the troops proceeded in warlike array to the town of Concord, where they set upon another party of the inhabitants of the same province, killing several and wounding more, until compelled to retreat by the country people suddenly assembled to repel this cruel aggression. Hostilities, thus commenced by the British troops, have been since prosecuted by them without regard to faith or reputation.—The inhabitants of Boston being confined within that town by the general their governor, and having, in order to procure their dismissal, entered into a treaty with him, it was stipulated that the said inhabitants having deposited their arms with their own magistrates, should have liberty to depart, taking with them their other effects. They accordingly delivered up their arms, but in open violation of honour, in defiance of the obligation of treaties, which even savage nations esteemed sacred, the governor ordered the arms deposited as aforesaid, that they might be preserved for their owners, to be seized by a body of soldiers ; detained the greatest part of the inhabitants in the town, and compelled the few who were permitted to retire, to leave their most valuable effects behind.

By this perfidy wives are separated from their husbands, children from their parents, the aged and the sick from their relations and friends, who wish to attend and comfort them ; and those who have been used to live in plenty and even elegance, are reduced to deplorable distress.

The general, further emulating his ministerial masters, by a proclamation bearing date on the 12th day of June, after venting the grossest falsehoods and calumnies against the good people of these colonies, proceeds to “ declare them all, either by name or “ description, to be rebels and traitors, to supersede the course “ of the common law, and instead thereof to publish and order “ the use and exercise of the law martial.”—His troops have butchered our countrymen, have wantonly burnt Charlestown, be-

sides a considerable number of houses in other places ; our ships and vessels are seized ; the necessary supplies of provisions are intercepted, and he is exerting his utmost power to spread destruction and devastation around him.

We have received certain intelligence, that general Carleton, the governor of Canada, is instigating the people of that province and the Indians to fall upon us ; and we have but too much reason to apprehend, that schemes have been formed to excite domestic enemies against us. In brief, a part of these colonies now feel, and all of them are full of feeling, as far as the vengeance of administration can inflict them, the complicated calamities of fire, sword, and famine. We are reduced to the alternative of chusing an unconditional submission to the tyranny of irritated ministers, or resistance by force.—The latter is our choice.—We have counted the cost of this contest, and find nothing so dreadful as voluntary slavery.—Honour, justice, and humanity, forbid us tamely to surrender that freedom which we received from our gallant ancestors, and which our innocent posterity have a right to receive from us. We cannot endure the infamy and guilt of resigning succeeding generations to that wretchedness which inevitably awaits them, if we basely entail hereditary bondage upon them.

Our cause is just. Our union is perfect. Our internal resources are great, and, if necessary, foreign assistance is undoubtedly attainable.—We gratefully acknowledge, as signal instances of the Divine favour towards us, that his Providence would not permit us to be called into this severe controversy, until we were grown up to our present strength, had been previously exercised in warlike operation, and possessed of the means of defending ourselves. With hearts fortified with these animating reflections, we most solemnly, before God and the world, *declare*, that, exerting the utmost energy of those powers, which our beneficent Creator hath graciously bestowed upon us, the arms we have been compelled by our enemies to assume, we will, in defiance of every hazard, with unabating firmness and perseverance, employ for the preservation of our liberties ; being with one mind resolved to die freemen rather than to live slaves.

Lest this declaration should disquiet the minds of our friends and fellow-subjects in any part of the empire, we assure them that we mean not to dissolve that union which has so long and so happily subsisted between us, and which we sincerely wish to see restored.—Necessity has not yet driven us into that desperate measure, or induced us to excite any other nation to war against them.—We have not raised armies with ambitious designs of separating from Great-Britain, and establishing independent states. We fight not for glory or for conquest. We exhibit to mankind the remarkable spectacle of a people attacked by unprovoked enemies, without any imputation or even suspicion of offence. They boast of their privileges and civilization, and yet proffer no milder conditions than servitude or death.

In our own native land, in defence of the freedom that is our birth-right, and which we ever enjoyed till the late violation of it—for the protection of our property, acquired solely by the honest industry of our fore-fathers and ourselves, against violence actually offered, we have taken up arms. We shall lay them down when hostilities shall cease on the part of the aggressors, and all danger of their being renewed shall be removed, and not before.

With an humble confidence in the mercies of the supreme and impartial Judge and Ruler of the Universe, we most devoutly implore his divine goodness to protect us happily through this great conflict, to dispose our adversaries to reconciliation on reasonable terms, and thereby to relieve the empire from the calamities of civil war.

On a motion made, *Resolved*, That a letter be prepared to the lord mayor, aldermen, and livery of the city of London, expressing the thanks of this Congress, for their virtuous and spirited opposition to the oppressive and ruinous system of colony administration adopted by the British ministry.

Ordered, That the committee appointed to draught an address to the people of Great-Britain, do prepare this.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

FRIDAY, July 7, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The committee to whom the address to the people of Great-Britain, was re-committed, brought in the same, which being again read and debated, the farther consideration thereof was deferred till to-morrow.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

SATURDAY, July 8, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The petition to the king being engrossed, was compared at the table, and signed by the members present.

To the king's most excellent majesty:

MOST GRACIOUS SOVEREIGN,

We, your majesty's faithful subjects of the colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Suffex on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, and South-Carolina, in behalf of ourselves, and the inhabitants of these colonies, who have deputed us to represent them in general Congress, entreat your majesty's gracious attention to this our humble petition.

The union between our mother country and these colonies, and the energy of mild and just government, produced benefits to remarkably important, and afforded such an assurance of their permanency and increase, that the wonder and envy of other nations

were excited, while they beheld Great-Britain rising to a power the most extraordinary the world had ever known.

Her rivals, observing that there was no probability of this happy connexion being broken by civil dissensions, and apprehending its future effects, if left any longer undisturbed, resolved to prevent her receiving such continual and formidable accessions of wealth and strength, by checking the growth of those settlements from which they were to be derived.

In the prosecution of this attempt, events so unfavourable to the design took place, that every friend to the interest of Great-Britain and these colonies, entertained pleasing and reasonable expectations of seeing an additional force and exertion immediately given to the operations of the union hitherto experienced, by an enlargement of the dominions of the crown, and the removal of ancient and warlike enemies to a greater distance.

At the conclusion, therefore, of the late war, the most glorious and advantageous that ever had been carried on by British arms, your loyal colonists having contributed to its success, by such repeated and strenuous exertions, as frequently procured them the distinguished approbation of your majesty, of the late king, and of parliament, doubted not but that they should be permitted, with the rest of the empire, to share in the blessings of peace, and the emoluments of victory and conquest.

While these recent and honorable acknowledgments of their merits remained on record in the journals and acts of that august legislature, the parliament, undaunted by the imputation or even the suspicion of any offence, they were alarmed by a new system of statutes and regulations adopted for the administration of the colonies, that filled their minds with the most painful fears and jealousies; and, to their inexpressible astonishment, perceived the danger of a foreign quarrel quickly succeeded by domestic danger, in their judgment, of a more dreadful kind.

Nor were these anxieties alleviated by any tendency in this system to promote the welfare of their mother country. For though its effects were more immediately felt by them, yet its influence appeared to be injurious to the commerce and prosperity of Great-Britain.

We shall decline the ungrateful task of describing the irksome variety of artifices, practised by many of your majesty's ministers, the delusive pretences, fruitless terrors, and unavailing severities, that have, from time to time, been dealt out by them, in their attempts to execute this impolitic plan, or of tracing, through a series of years past, the progress of the unhappy differences between Great-Britain and these colonies, that have flowed from this fatal source.

Your majesty's ministers, persevering in their measures, and proceeding to open hostilities for enforcing them, have compelled us to arm in our own defence, and have engaged us in a controversy so peculiarly abhorrent to the affections of your still faithful colo-

nists, that when we consider whom we must oppose in this contest, and if it continues, what may be the consequences, our own particular misfortunes are accounted by us only as parts of our distress.

Knowing to what violent resentments, and incurable animosities, civil discords are apt to exasperate and inflame the contending parties, we think ourselves required by indispensable obligations to Almighty God, to your majesty, to our fellow-subjects, and to ourselves, immediately to use all the means in our power, not incompatible with our safety, for stopping the further effusion of blood, and for averting the impending calamities that threaten the British empire.

Thus called upon to address your majesty on affairs of such moment to America, and probably to all your dominions, we are earnestly desirous of performing this office, with the utmost deference for your majesty; and we therefore pray, that your majesty's royal magnanimity and benevolence may make the most favourable constructions of our expressions on so uncommon an occasion. Could we represent in their full force, the sentiments that agitate the minds of us your dutiful subjects, we are persuaded your majesty would ascribe any seeming deviation from reverence in our language, and even in our conduct, not to any reprehensible intention, but to the impossibility of reconciling the usual appearances of respect, with a just attention to our own preservation against those artful and cruel enemies, who abuse your royal confidence and authority, for the purpose of effecting our destruction.

Attached to your majesty's person, family, and government with all devotion that principle and affection can inspire, connected with Great-Britain by the strongest ties that can unite societies, and deploring every event that tends in any degree to weaken them, we solemnly assure your majesty, that we not only most ardently desire the former harmony between her and these colonies may be restored, but that a concord may be established between them upon so firm a basis as to perpetuate its blessings, uninterrupted by any future dissensions, to succeeding generations in both countries, and to transmit your majesty's name to posterity, adorned with that signal and lasting glory, that has attended the memory of those illustrious personages, whose virtues and abilities have extricated states from dangerous convulsions, and, by securing happiness to others, have erected the most noble and durable monuments to their own fame.

We beg leave farther to assure your majesty, that notwithstanding the sufferings of your loyal colonists, during the course of this present controversy, our breasts retain too tender a regard for the kingdom from which we derive our origin, to request such a reconciliation as might in any manner be inconsistent with her dignity or her welfare. These, related as we are to her, honour and duty, as well as inclination, induce us to support and advance; and the apprehensions that now oppress our hearts with unspeakable grief, being once removed, your majesty will find your faithful subjects on

this continent ready and willing at all times, as they have ever been, with their lives and fortunes, to assert and maintain the rights and interests of your majesty, and of our mother country.

We, therefore, beseech your majesty, that your royal authority and influence may be graciously interposed to procure us relief from our afflicting fears and jealousies, occasioned by the system before mentioned, and to settle peace through every part of your dominions, with all humility submitting to your majesty's wise consideration whether it may not be expedient for facilitating those important purposes, that your majesty be pleased to direct some mode, by which the united applications of your faithful colonists to the throne, in pursuance of their common councils, may be improved into a happy and permanent reconciliation; and that, in the mean time, measures may be taken for preventing the further destruction of the lives of your majesty's subjects; and that such statutes as more immediately distress any of your majesty's colonies may be repealed.

For by such arrangements as your majesty's wisdom can form, for collecting the united sense of your American people, we are convinced your majesty would receive such satisfactory proofs of the disposition of the colonists towards their sovereign and parent state, that the wished for opportunity would soon be restored to them, of evincing the sincerity of their professions, by every testimony of devotion becoming the most dutiful subjects and the most affectionate colonists.

That your majesty may enjoy a long and prosperous reign, and that your descendants may govern your dominions with honour to themselves and happiness to their subjects, is our sincere prayer.

The committee appointed to prepare a letter to the lord mayor, &c. reported the same, which was read.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the same committee prepare a letter to Richard Penn, Esq; and the colony agents by name in England.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the address to the inhabitants of Great-Britain, which being debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows:

The Twelve United Colonies, by their delegates in Congress, to the inhabitants of Great-Britain.

FRIENDS, COUNTRYMEN, AND BRETHREN!

By these, and by every other appellation that may designate the ties, which bind us to each other, we entreat your serious attention to this our second attempt to prevent their dissolution. Remembrance of former friendships, pride in the glorious achievements of our common ancestors, and affection for the heirs of their virtues, have hitherto preserved our mutual connection; but when that friendship is violated by the grossest injuries; when the pride of ancestry becomes our reproach, and we are no otherwise allied than as tyrants and slaves; when reduced to the melancholy alternative of

renouncing your favour or our freedom; can we hesitate about the choice? Let the spirit of Britons determine.

In a former address we asserted our rights, and stated the injuries we had then received. We hoped, that the mention of our wrongs would have roused that honest indignation which has slept too long for your honour, or the welfare of the empire. But we have not been permitted to entertain this pleasing expectation. Every day brought an accumulation of injuries, and the invention of the ministry has been constantly exercised, in adding to the calamities of your American brethren.

After the most valuable right of legislation was infringed; when the powers assumed by your parliament, in which we are not represented, and from our local and other circumstances cannot properly be represented, rendered our property precarious; after being denied that mode of trial, to which we have long been indebted for the safety of our persons, and the preservation of our liberties; after being in many instances divested of those laws, which were transmitted to us by our common ancestors, and subjected to an arbitrary code, compiled under the auspices of Roman tyrants; after those charters, which encouraged our predecessors to brave death and danger in every shape, on unknown seas, in deserts unexplored, amidst barbarous and inhospitable nations, were annulled; when, without the form of trial, without a public accusation, whole colonies were condemned, their trade destroyed, their inhabitants impoverished; when soldiers were encouraged to embrue their hands in the blood of Americans, by offers of impunity; when new modes of trial were instituted for the ruin of the accused, where the charge carried with it the horrors of conviction; when a despotic government was established in a neighbouring province, and its limits extended to every of our frontiers; we little imagined that any thing could be added to this black catalogue of unprovoked injuries: but we have unhappily been deceived, and the late measures of the British ministry fully convince us, that their object is the reduction of these colonies to slavery and ruin.

To confirm this assertion, let us recal your attention to the affairs of America, since our last address. Let us combat the calumnies of our enemies; and let us warn you of the dangers that threaten you in our destruction. Many of your fellow-subjects, whose situation deprived them of other support, drew their maintenance from the sea; but the deprivation of our liberty being insufficient to satisfy the resentment of our enemies, the horrors of famine were superadded, and a British parliament, who, in better times, were the protectors of innocence and the patrons of humanity, have, without distinction of age or sex, robbed thousands of the food which they were accustomed to draw from that inexhaustible source, placed in their neighbourhood by the benevolent Creator.

Another act of your legislature shuts our ports, and prohibits our trade with any but those states from whom the great law of self-preservation renders it absolutely necessary we should at present

withhold our commerce. But this act (whatever may have been its design) we consider rather as injurious to your opulence than our interest. All our commerce terminates with you; and the wealth we procure from other nations, is soon exchanged for your superfluities. Our remittances must then cease with our trade; and our refinements with our affluence. We trust, however, that laws which deprive us of every blessing but a foil that teems with the necessities of life, and that liberty which renders the enjoyment of them secure, will not relax our vigour in their defence.

We might here observe on the cruelty and inconsistency of those, who, while they publicly brand us with reproachful and unworthy epithets, endeavour to deprive us of the means of defence, by their interpolation with foreign powers, and to deliver us to the lawless ravages of a merciless soldiery. But happily we are not without resources; and though the timid and humiliating applications of a British ministry should prevail with foreign nations, yet industry, prompted by necessity, will not leave us without the necessary supplies.

We could wish to go no further, and, not to wound the ear of humanity, leave untold those rigorous acts of oppression, which are daily exercised in the town of Boston, did we not hope, that by disclaiming their deeds and punishing the perpetrators, you would shortly vindicate the honour of the British name, and re-establish the violated laws of justice.

That once populous, flourishing and commercial town is now garrisoned by an army sent not to protect, but to enslave its inhabitants. The civil government is overturned, and a military despotism erected upon its ruins. Without law, without right, powers are assumed unknown to the constitution. Private property is unjustly invaded. The inhabitants, daily subjected to the licentiousness of the soldiery, are forbid to remove in defiance of their natural rights, in violation of the most solemn compacts. Or if, after long and wearisome solicitation, a pass is procured, their effects are detained, and even those who are most favoured, have no alternative but poverty or slavery. The distress of many thousand people, wantonly deprived of the necessities of life, is a subject, on which we would not wish to enlarge.

Yet, we cannot but observe, that a British fleet (unjustified even by acts of your legislature) are daily employed in ruining our commerce, seizing our ships, and depriving whole communities of their daily bread. Nor will a regard for your honour permit us to be silent, while British troops sully your glory, by actions, which the most inveterate enmity will not palliate among civilized nations, the wanton and unnecessary destruction of Charlestown, a large, ancient, and once populous town, just before deserted by its inhabitants, who had fled to avoid the fury of your soldiery.

If you still retain those sentiments of compassion, by which Britons have ever been distinguished, if the humanity, which tempered the valour of our common ancestors, has not degenerated into cruelty, you will lament the miseries of their descendants.

To what are we to attribute this treatment? If to any secret principle of the constitution, let it be mentioned; let us learn, that the government, we have long revered, is not without its defects, and that while it gives freedom to a part, it necessarily enslaves the remainder of the empire. If such a principle exists; why for ages has it ceased to operate? Why at this time is it called into action? Can no reason be assigned for this conduct? Or must it be resolved into the wanton exercise of arbitrary power? And shall the descendants of Britons tamely submit to this.—No, sirs! We never will, while we revere the memory of our gallant and virtuous ancestors, we never can surrender those glorious privileges, for which they fought, bled and conquered. Admit that your fleets could destroy our towns, and ravage our sea-coasts; these are inconsiderable objects, things of no moment to men, whose bosoms glow with the ardor of liberty. We can retire beyond the reach of your navy, and, without any sensible diminution of the necessaries of life, enjoy a luxury, which from that period you will want; the luxury of being free.

We know the force of your arms, and was it called forth in the cause of justice and your country, we might dread the exertion; but will Britons fight under the banners of tyranny? Will they counteract the labours, and disgrace the victories of their ancestors? Will they forge chains for their posterity? If they descend to this unworthy task, will their swords retain their edge, their arms their accustomed vigour? Britons can never become the instruments of oppression, till they loose the spirit of freedom, by which alone they are invincible.

Our enemies charge us with sedition. In what does it consist? In our refusal to submit to unwarrantable acts of injustice and cruelty? If so, shew us a period in your history, in which you have not been equally seditious.

We are accused of aiming at independence; but how is this accusation supported? By the allegations of your ministers, not by our actions. Abused, insulted, and contemned, what steps have we pursued to obtain redress? We have carried our dutiful petitions to the throne.—We have applied to your justice for relief. We have retrenched our luxury, and withheld our trade.

The advantages of our commerce were designed as a compensation for your protection: When you ceased to protect, for what were we to compensate?

What has been the success of our endeavours? The clemency of our sovereign is unhappily diverted; our petitions are treated with indignity; our prayers answered by insults. Our application to you remains unnoticed, and leaves us the melancholy apprehension of your wanting either the will, or the power, to assist us.

Even under these circumstances, what measures have we taken that betray a desire of independence? Have we called in the aid of those foreign powers, who are the rivals of your grandeur? When your troops were few and defenceless, did we take advan-

tage of their distress and expel them our towns? Or have we permitted them to fortify, to receive new aid and to acquire additional strength?

Let not your enemies and ours persuade you, that in this we were influenced by fear or any other unworthy motive. The lives of Britons are still dear to us. They are the children of our parents, and an uninterrupted intercourse of mutual benefits had knit the bonds of friendship. When hostilities were commenced, when on a late occasion we were wantonly attacked by your troops, though we repelled their assaults and returned their blows, yet we lamented the wounds they obliged us to give; nor have we yet learned to rejoice at a victory over Englishmen.

As we will not to colour our actions, or disguise our thoughts, we shall, in the simple language of truth, avow the measures we have pursued, the motives, upon which we have acted, and our future designs.

When our late petition to the throne produced no other effect than fresh injuries, and votes of your legislature, calculated to justify every severity; when your fleets and your armies were prepared to wrest from us our property, to rob us of our liberties or our lives; when the hostile attempts of general Gage evinced his designs, we levied armies for our security and defence. When the powers vested in the governor of Canada, gave us reason to apprehend danger from that quarter; and we had frequent intimations, that a cruel and savage enemy was to be let loose upon the defenceless inhabitants of our frontiers; we took such measures as prudence dictated, as necessity will justify. We possessed ourselves of Crown-Point and Ticonderoga. Yet give us leave most solemnly to assure you, that we have not yet lost sight of the object we have ever had in view, a reconciliation with you on constitutional principles, and a restoration of that friendly intercourse, which, to the advantage of both, we till lately maintained.

The inhabitants of this country apply themselves chiefly to agriculture and commerce. As their fashions and manners are similar to yours, your markets must afford them the conveniencies and luxuries, for which they exchange the produce of their labours. The wealth of this extended continent centres with you; and our trade is so regulated as to be subservient only to your interest. You are too reasonable to expect, that by taxes (in addition to this) we should contribute to your expense; to believe after diverting the fountain, that the streams can flow with unabated force.

It has been said, that we refuse to submit to the restrictions on our commerce. From whence is this inference drawn? Not from our words, we have repeatedly declared the contrary; and we again profess our submission to the several acts of trade and navigation, passed before the year 1763, trusting nevertheless in the equity and justice of parliament, that such of them as, upon cool and impartial consideration, shall appear to have imposed unnecessary or grievous restrictions, will, at some happier period, be re-

pealed or altered. And we cheerfully consent to the operation of such acts of the British parliament, as shall be restrained to the regulation of our external commerce, for the purpose of securing the commercial advantages of the whole empire to the mother country, and the commercial benefits of its respective members; excluding every idea of taxation internal or external, for raising a revenue on the subjects in America, without their consent.

It is alledged that we contribute nothing to the common defence. To this we answer, that the advantages which Great-Britain receives from the monopoly of our trade, far exceed our proportion of the expence necessary for that purpose. But should these advantages be inadequate thereto, let the restrictions on our trade be removed, and we will cheerfully contribute such proportion when constitutionally required.

It is a fundamental principle of the British constitution, that every man should have at least a representative share in the formation of those laws, by which he is bound. Were it otherwise, the regulation of our internal police by a British parliament, who are and ever will be unacquainted with our local circumstances, must be always inconvenient, and frequently oppressive, working our wrong, without yielding any possible advantage to you.

A plan of accommodation (as it has been absurdly called) has been proposed by your ministers to our respective assemblies. Were this proposal free from every other objection, but that which arises from the time of the offer, it would not be unexceptionable. Can men deliberate with the bayonet at their breast? Can they treat with freedom, while their towns are sacked; when daily instances of injustice and oppression disturb the slower operations of reason?

If this proposal is really such as you would offer and we accept, why was it delayed till the nation was put to useless expence, and we were reduced to our present melancholy situation? If it holds forth nothing, why was it proposed? Unless indeed to deceive you into a belief, that we were unwilling to listen to any terms of accommodation? But what is submitted to our consideration? We consent for the disposal of our property. We are told that our demand is unreasonable, that our assemblies may indeed collect our money, but that they must at the same time offer, not what your exigences or ours may require, but so much as shall be deemed sufficient to satisfy the desires of a minister and enable him to provide for favourites and dependants. A recurrence to your own treasury will convince you how little of the money already extorted from us has been applied to the relief of your burthens. To suppose that we would thus grasp the shadow and give up the substance, is adding insult to injuries.

We have nevertheless again presented an humble and dutiful petition to our sovereign; and to remove every imputation of obstinacy, have requested his majesty to direct some mode, by which the united applications of his faithful colonists may be improved into happy and permanent reconciliation. We are willing to treat

on such terms as can alone render an accommodation lasting, and we flatter ourselves that our pacific endeavours will be attended with a removal of ministerial troops, and a repeal of those laws, of the operation of which we complain, on the one part, and a disbanding of our army, and a dissolution of our commercial associations, on the other.

Yet conclude not from this that we propose to surrender our property into the hands of your ministry, or vest your parliament with a power which may terminate in our destruction. The great bulwarks of our constitution we have desired to maintain by every temperate, by every peaceable means; but your ministers (equal foes to British and American freedom) have added to their former oppressions an attempt to reduce us by the sword to a base and abject submission. On the sword, therefore, we are compelled to rely for protection. Should victory declare in your favour, yet men trained to arms from their infancy, and animated by the love of liberty, will afford neither a cheap or easy conquest. Of this at least we are assured, that our struggle will be glorious, our success certain; since even in death we shall find that freedom which in life you forbid us to enjoy.

Let us now ask what advantages are to attend our reduction? the trade of a ruined and desolate country is always inconsiderable, its revenue trifling; the expense of subduing and retaining it in subjection certain and inevitable. What then remains but the gratification of an ill-judged pride, or the hope of rendering us subservient to designs on your liberty.

Soldiers who have sheathed their swords in the bowels of their American brethren, will not draw them with more reluctance against you. When too late you may lament the loss of that freedom, which we exhort you, while still in your power, to preserve.

On the other hand, should you prove unsuccessful; should that connexion, which we most ardently wish to maintain, be dissolved; should your ministers exhaust your treasures and waste the blood of your countrymen in vain attempts on our liberty; do they not deliver you, weak and defenceless, to your natural enemies.

Since then your liberty must be the price of your victories; your ruin, of your defeat:—What blind fatality can urge you to a pursuit destructive of all that Britons hold dear?

If you have no regard to the connexion that has for ages subsisted between us; if you have forgot the wounds we have received fighting by your side for the extension of the empire; if our commerce is not an object below your consideration; if justice and humanity have lost their influence on your hearts; if all motives are not wanting to excite your indignation at the measures now pursued: your wealth, your honour, your liberty are at stake.

Notwithstanding the distress to which we are reduced, we sometimes forget our own afflictions, to anticipate and sympathize in yours. We grieve that rash and inconsiderate councils should precipitate the destruction of an empire, which has been the envy and

admiration of ages, and call God to witness! that we would part with our property, endanger our lives, and sacrifice every thing but liberty, to redeem you from ruin.

A cloud hangs over your heads and ours; e'er this reaches you, it may possibly burst upon us; let us then (before the remembrance of former kindness is obliterated) once more repeat those appellations which are ever grateful in our ears; let us entreat heaven to avert our ruin, and the destruction that threatens our friends, brethren, and countrymen, on the other side of the Atlantic.

Ordered, That the above address be immediately printed, and sent by Mr. Penn to England.

The letter to the lord mayor, aldermen and livery of London, being again read and debated, was agreed to as follows:

MY LORD,

Permit the delegates of the people of twelve ancient colonies, to pay your lordship, and the very respectable body of which you are head, the just tribute of gratitude and thanks, for the virtuous and unsolicited resentment you have shewn to the violated rights of a free people. The city of London, my lord, having in all ages, approved itself the patron of liberty, and the support of just government, against lawless tyranny and oppression, cannot fail to make us deeply sensible of the powerful aid, our cause must receive from such advocates. A cause, my lord, worthy the support of the first city in the world, as it involves the fate of a great continent, and threatens to shake the foundations of a flourishing, and, until lately, a happy empire.

North-America, my lord, wishes most ardently for a lasting connection with Great-Britain on terms of just and equal liberty; less than which generous minds will not offer, nor brave and free ones be willing to receive.

A cruel war has at length been opened against us, and whilst we prepare to defend ourselves like the descendants of Britons, we still hope that the mediation of wise and good citizens, will at length prevail over despotism, and restore harmony and peace, on permanent principles, to an oppressed and divided empire.

We have the honor to be, my lord,

With great esteem, your lordship's

Faithful friends and fellow-subjects.

Ordered, That the above letter be transcribed, then signed by the president.

The committee appointed to prepare a letter to Mr. Penn and the colony agents, reported a draught, which was read and approved as follows:

GENTLEMEN,

The perseverance of the British ministry in their unjust and cruel system of colony administration, has occasioned the meeting of another Congress.

We have again appealed to the justice of our sovereign for protection against the destruction which his ministers meditate for his

American subjects. This petition to his majesty you will please, gentlemen, to present to the king with all convenient expedition, after which we desire it may be given to the public. We likewise send you our second application to the equity and interest of our fellow-subjects in Great-Britain, and also a declaration setting forth the causes of our taking up arms: Both which we wish may be immediately put to press, and communicated as universally as possible.

The Congress entertain the highest sense of the wise and worthy interposition of the lord mayor and livery of London, in favour of injured America. They have expressed this, their sense, in a letter to his lordship and the livery, which we desire may be presented in the manner most agreeable to that respectable body.

You will oblige us, gentlemen, by giving the most early information to the Congress, and to the speakers of our respective assemblies, of your proceeding in this business, and such further intelligence as you may judge to be of importance to America in this great contest.

We are, with great regard, Gentlemen, &c.

Ordered, That the above be fairly transcribed, and then signed by the president, and by him sent under cover, together with the petition to the king, and address to the inhabitants of Great-Britain, and the letter to the lord mayor, &c. to Richard Penn, Esq. and that the president request Mr. Penn, in behalf of the Congress, to join with the colony agents in presenting the petition to the king.

Adjourned till Monday at nine o'clock.

Monday, July 10, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

Information being given, that there was a gentleman in town well acquainted with the state and disposition of the Indians, a motion was made for introducing him, and he was accordingly introduced and examined.

The committee appointed to devise ways and means for putting the militia in a proper state for the defence of America, brought in their report, which was read, and after debate referred for further consideration.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

Tuesday, July 11, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The report of the committee on Indian affairs was taken up and read, and, after some debate, the same was deferred till to-morrow.

On information that there were two companies of riflemen raised in Lancaster instead of one,

Resolved, That both be taken into the continental service.

"An address of deputies from the different parishes of the islands of Bermuda," to the Congress was presented and read.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, July 12, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

A gentleman from the province of Quebec was introduced and examined.

Letters from governor Cooke and general Ward were read.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on Indian affairs, and the same being gone through was agreed to as follows :

That the securing and preserving the friendship of the Indian nations, appears to be a subject of the utmost moment to these colonies.

That there is too much reason to apprehend that administration will spare no pains to excite the several nations of Indians to take up arms against these colonies ; and it becomes us to be very active and vigilant in exerting every prudent means to strengthen and confirm the friendly disposition towards these colonies, which has long prevailed among the northern tribes, and which has been lately manifested by some of those to the southward.

As the Indians depend on the colonists for arms, ammunition, and cloathing, which are become necessary to their subsistence, that commissioners be appointed by this Congress, to superintend Indian affairs in behalf of these colonies.

That there be three departments of Indians, the northern, middle, and southern. The northern to extend so far south as to include the whole of the Indians known by the name of the Six Nations, and all the Indians northward of those nations. The southern department to extend so far north as to include the Cherokees, and all the Indians that may be to the southward of them. The middle to contain the Indian nations that lie between the other two departments.

That five commissioners be appointed for the southern department.

That for each of the other two departments there be appointed three commissioners.

That the commissioners have power to treat with the Indians in their respective departments, in the name, and on behalf of the United Colonies, in order to preserve peace and friendship with the said Indians, and to prevent their taking any part in the present commotions.

That the commissioners for the southern department receive from the continental treasury the sum of ten thousand dollars ; the commissioners for the middle and northern department, the sum of six thousand six hundred and sixty-six and two thirds, for each of their respective departments, for defraying the expense of treaties and presents to the Indians.

That the commissioners respectfully have power to take to their assistance gentlemen of influence among the Indians, in whom they can confide, and to appoint agents, residing near or among the Indians, to watch the conduct of the superintendants and their emissaries.

That in case the commissioners for the respective districts, or any one of them in either district, shall have satisfactory proof, that the king's superintendants, their deputies or agents, or any other person whatsoever, are active in stirring up or inciting the Indians or any of them, to become inimical to the American colonies, such commissioner or commissioners, ought to cause such superintendants or other offender, to be seized and kept in safe custody until order shall be taken therein by a majority of the commissioners of the districts where such seizure is made, or by the continental Congress, or a committee of said Congress, to whom such seizure, with the causes of it, shall, as soon as possible after, be made known.

That the commissioners shall exhibit fair accounts of the expenditure of all monies by them respectively to be received for the purposes aforesaid, to every succeeding continental Congress, or committee of Congress, together with a general state of Indian affairs, in their several departments; in order that the colonies may be informed from time to time, of every such matter as may concern them to know and avail themselves of, for the benefit of the common cause.

That as there is a seminary for the instruction of Indian youth, which has been established under the care of doctor Wheelock, on Connecticut river; and as there are nine or ten Indian youths at that school, chiefly from the tribes residing in Quebec; and as for want of a proper fund, there is danger that these youths may be sent back to their friends, which will probably excite jealousy and distrust, and be attended with bad consequences, the commissioners for Indian affairs in the northern department, be authorized to receive, out of the continental treasury, a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars, to be applied by them for the support of said Indian youths.

On motion made, *Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to devise ways and means to protect the trade of these colonies.

The following were chosen, Mr. Jay, Mr. Franklin, Mr. Gadsden, Mr. Deane, and Mr. Lee.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eight o'clock.

THURSDAY, July 13, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The committee appointed to prepare proper talks to the Indians, reported the same, which was agreed to as follows:

A SPEECH to the Six Confederate Nations, Mohawks, Oneidas, Tuscaroras, Onondagas, Cayugas, Senecas, from the Twelve United Colonies, convened in Council at Philadelphia.

Brothers, Sachems, and Warriors,

WE, the delegates from the twelve United Provinces, viz. New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the three lower counties of Newcastle, Kent, and Susssex, on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia,

North-Carolina, and South-Carolina, now sitting in general Congress at Philadelphia, send this talk to you our brothers. We are sixty-five in number, chosen and appointed by the people throughout all these provinces and colonies, to meet and sit together in one great council, to consult together for the common good of the land, and speak and act for them.

Brothers, in our consultation we have judged it proper and necessary to send you this talk, as we are upon the same island, that you may be informed of the reasons of this great council, the situation of our civil constitution, and our disposition towards you our Indian brothers of the Six Nations and their allies.

(Three Strings, or a small Belt.)

Brothers and Friends, now attend,

When our fathers crossed the great water and came over to this land, the king of England gave them a talk; assuring them that they and their children should be his children, and that if they would leave their native country and make settlements, and live here, and buy, and sell, and trade with their brethren beyond the water, they should still keep hold of the same covenant chain and enjoy peace.—And it was covenanted, that the fields, houses, goods, and possessions which our fathers should acquire, should remain to them as their own, and be their children's forever, and at their sole disposal.

Trusting that this covenant should never be broken, our fathers came a great distance beyond the great water, laid out their money here, built houses, cleared fields, raised crops, and through their own labour and industry grew tall and strong.

They have bought, sold and traded with England according to agreement, sending to them such things as they wanted, and taking in exchange such things as were wanted here.

The king of England and his people kept the way open for more than one hundred years, and by our trade became richer, and by a union with us, greater and stronger than the other kings and people who live beyond the water.

All this time they lived in great friendship with us, and we with them; for we are brothers—one blood.

Whenever they were struck, we instantly felt as though the blow had been given to us—their enemies were our enemies.

Whenever they went to war, we sent our men to stand by their side and fight for them, and our money to help them and make them strong.

They thanked us for our love, and sent us good talks, and renewed their promise to be one people forever.

Brothers and Friends, open a kind ear!

We will now tell you of the quarrel betwixt the counsellors of king George and the inhabitants and colonies of America.

Many of his counsellors are proud and wicked men.—They per-

suade the king to break the covenant chain, and not to fend us any more good talks. A considerable number have prevailed upon him to enter into a new covenant against us, and have torn asunder and cast behind their backs the good old covenant which their ancestors and ours entered into, and took strong hold of.

They now tell us they will slip their hand into our pocket without asking, as though it were their own; and at their pleasure they will take from us our charters or written civil constitution, which we love as our lives—also our plantations, our houses and goods whenever they please, without asking our leave.—That our vessels may go to this island in the sea, but to this or that particular island we shall not trade any more.—And in case of our non-compliance with these new orders, they shut up our harbours.

Brothers, this is our present situation—thus have many of the king's counsellors and servants dealt with us.—If we submit, or comply with their demands, you can easily perceive to what state we will be reduced.—If our people labour on the field, they will not know who shall enjoy the crop.—If they hunt in the woods, it will be uncertain who shall taste of the meat or have the skins.—If they build houses they will not know whether they may sit round the fire, with their wives and children.—They cannot be sure whether they shall be permitted to eat, drink, and wear the fruits of their own labour and industry.

Brothers and Friends of the Six Nations, attend,

We upon this island have often spoke and intreated the king and his servants the counsellors, that peace and harmony might still continue between us—that we cannot part with or loose our hold of the old covenant chain which united our fathers and theirs—that we want to brighten this chain—and keep the way open as our fathers did; that we want to live with them as brothers, labour, trade, travel abroad, eat and drink in peace. We have often asked them to love us and live in such friendship with us as their fathers did with ours.

We told them again that we judged we were exceedingly injured, that they might as well kill us, as take away our property and the necessities of life.—We have asked why they treat us thus?—What has become of our repeated addresses and supplications to them? Who hath shut the ears of the king to the cries of his children in America? No soft answer—no pleasant voice from beyond the water has yet sounded in our ears.

Brothers, thus stands the matter betwixt old England and America. You Indians know how things are proportioned in a family—between the father and the son—the child carries a little pack—England we regard as the father—this island may be compared to the son.

The father has a numerous family—both at home and upon this island.—He appoints a great number of servants to assist him in the government of his family. In process of time, some of his servants grow proud and ill-natured—they were displeased to see the boy

so alert and walk on so nimbly with his pack. They tell the father, and advise him to enlarge the child's pack—they prevail—the pack is increased—the child takes it up again—as he thought it might be the father's pleasure—speaks but few words—those very small—for he was loth to offend the father. Those proud and wicked servants finding they had prevailed, laughed to see the boy sweat and stagger under his increased load. By and by, they apply to the father to double the boy's pack, because they heard him complain—and without any reason said they—he is a cross child—correct him if he complains any more.—The boy intreats the father—addresses the great servants in a decent manner, that the pack might be lightened—he could not go any farther—humbly asks, if the old fathers, in any of their records, had described such a pack for the child—after all the tears and intreaties of the child, the pack is redoubled—the child stands a little, while staggering under the weight—ready to fall every moment. However, he entreats the father once more, though so faint he could only slip out his last humble supplication—waits a while—no voice returns. The child concludes the father could not hear—those proud servants had intercepted his supplications, or stopped the ears of the father. He therefore gives one struggle and throws off the pack, and says he cannot take it up again—such a weight would crush him down and kill him—and he can but die if he refuses.

Upon this, those servants are very wroth—and tell the father many false stories respecting the child—they bring a great cudgel to the father, asking him to take it in his hand and strike the child.

This may serve to illustrate the present condition of the king's American subjects or children.

Amidst these oppressions we now and then hear a mollifying and reviving voice from some of the king's wise counsellors, who are our friends and feel for our distresses, when they heard our complaints and our cries, they applied to the king, also told those wicked servants, that this child in America was not a cross boy, it had sufficient reason for crying, and if the cause of its complaint was neglected, it would soon assume the voice of a man, plead for justice like a man, and defend its rights and support the old covenant chain of the fathers.

Brothers, listen !

Notwithstanding all our intreaties, we have but little hope the king will send us any more good talks, by reason of his evil counsellors ; they have persuaded him to send an army of soldiers and many ships of war, to rob and destroy us. They have shut up many of our harbours, seized and taken into possession many of our vessels : The soldiers have struck the blow, killed some of our people, the blood now runs of the American children : They have also burned our houses and towns, and taken much of our goods.

Brothers ! we are now necessitated to rise, and forced to fight, or give up our civil constitution, run away and leave our farms and houses behind us. This must not be. Since the king's wicked coun-

fellors will not open their ears, and consider our just complaints, and the cause of our weeping, and hath given the blow, we are determined to drive away the king's foldiers, and to kill and destroy all those wicked men we find in arms against the peace of the twelve United Colonies upon this island. We think our cause is just; therefore hope God will be on our side. We do not take up the hatchet and struggle for honour and conquest; but to maintain our civil constitution and religious privileges, the very fame for which our forefathers left their native land and came to this country.

Brothers and Friends!

We desire you will hear and receive what we have now told you, and that you will open a good ear and listen to what we are now going to say. This is a family quarrel between us and Old England. You Indians are not concerned in it. We don't wish you to take up the hatchet against the king's troops. We desire you to remain at home, and not join on either side, but keep the hatchet buried deep. In the name and behalf of all our people, we ask and desire you to love peace and maintain it, and to love and sympathize with us in our troubles; that the path may be kept open with all our people and yours, to pafs and repafs, without molestation.

Brothers! we live upon the same ground with you. The same island is our common birth-place. We desire to sit down under the same tree of peace with you: Let us water its roots and cherish its growth, till the large leaves and flourishing branches shall extend to the setting sun, and reach the skies.

Brothers, observe well!

What is it we have asked of you? Nothing but peace, notwithstanding our present disturbed situation—and if application should be made to you by any of the king's unwise and wicked ministers to join on their side, we only advise you to deliberate, with great caution, and in your wisdom look forward to the consequences of a compliance. For, if the king's troops take away our property, and destroy us who are of the same blood with themselves, what can you, who are Indians, expect from them afterwards?

Therefore, we say, brothers, take care—hold fast to your covenant chain. You now know our disposition towards you, the Six Nations of Indians, and your allies. Let this our good talk remain at Onondaga, your general council house. We depend upon you to send and acquaint your allies to the northward, the seven tribes on the river St. Lawrence, that you have this talk of ours at the great council fire of the Six Nations. And when they return, we invite your great men to come and converse farther with us at Albany, where we intend to rekindle the council fire, which your and our ancestors sat round in great friendship.

Brothers and Friends!

We greet you all farewell.

(The large belt of intelligence and declaration.)

Brothers !

We have said we wish you Indians may continue in peace with one another, and with us the white people. Let us both be cautious in our behaviour towards each other at this critical state of affairs. This island now trembles, the wind whistles from almost every quarter—let us fortify our minds and shut our ears against false rumours—let us be cautious what we receive for truth, unless spoken by wise and good men. If any thing disagreeable should ever fall out between us, the twelve United Colonies, and you the Six Nations, to wound our peace, let us immediately seek measures for healing the breach. From the present situation of our affairs, we judge it wise and expedient to kindle up a small council fire at Albany, where we may hear each other's voice, and disclose our minds more fully to each other.

(A small belt.)

Ordered, That a similar talk be prepared for the other Indian nations, preserving the tenor of the above, and altering it so as to suit the Indians in the several departments.

The Congress then proceeded to the choice of commissioners for Indian affairs, and after some debate, agreed that the nomination of commissioners for the southern department be postponed till Tuesday next.

Mr. Franklin, Mr. Henry, and Mr. Wilson, were unanimously elected for the middle department.

The Congress then proceeded to elect the commissioners for the northern department, and the following gentlemen were chosen, viz. major-general Philip Schuyler, major Joseph Hawley, Mr. Turbot Francis, Mr. Oliver Woolcot, and Mr. Volkert P. Douw.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eight o'clock.

FRIDAY, July 14, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the militia, and after debate, the same was referred for farther consideration.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eight o'clock.

SATURDAY, July 15, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

On motion made, The Congress came to the following resolution :

Whereas the government of Great-Britain hath prohibited the exportation of arms and ammunition to any of the plantations, and endeavoured to prevent other nations from supplying us :

Resolved, That for the better furnishing these colonies with the necessary means of defending their rights, every vessel importing gun-powder, salt-petre, sulphur, provided they bring with the sulphur four times as much salt-petre, brass field-pieces, or good muskets fitted with bayonets, within nine months from the date

of this resolution, shall be permitted to load and export the produce of these colonies, to the value of such powder and stores aforesaid, the non-exportation agreement notwithstanding; and it is recommended to the committees of the several provinces to inspect the military stores so imported, and to estimate a generous price for the same, according to their goodness, and permit the importer of such powder and other military stores aforesaid, to export the value thereof and no more, in produce of any kind.

Sundry intercepted letters were laid before the Congress and read.

The talk to the Stockbridge Indians was then taken up, and the same being debated, was agreed to.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the Congress will, on Thursday next, attend divine service in a body, both morning and afternoon.

Ordered, That Mr. Lynch, and Mr. Dickinson, wait on Mr. Duche, and Dr. Allison, and request Mr. Duche to preach before the Congress on Thursday next, in the morning, and Dr. Allison in the afternoon.

Adjourned till Monday at eight o'clock.

MONDAY, July 17, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

A letter from general Schuyler, being laid before Congress, was read, and the same being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That a commissary of stores and provisions be appointed for the New-York department, during the present campaign.

Walter Livingston, Esq; chosen to that office.

Resolved, That a deputy quarter-master-general be appointed for the said department.

Donald Campbell, Esq; elected to that office.

Ordered, That Mr. D. Campbell, have the rank of colonel in the army.

Resolved, That a deputy muster-master be appointed for the said department.

Gunning Bedford, Esq; elected to that office.

Resolved, That the convention of New-York be desired to recommend to general Schuyler, a proper person for a deputy adjutant general or brigade major, for the army in the New-York department.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eight o'clock.

TUESDAY, July 18, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The Congress again resumed the consideration of the report of the committee for putting the militia into a proper state for the defence of America, and the same being debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the inhabitants of all the United English Colonies in North-America, that all able bodied effective men, between sixteen and sixty years of age in each colo-

ny, immediately form themselves into regular companies of militia, to consist of one captain, two lieutenants, one ensign, four serjeants, four corporals, one clerk, one drummer, one fifer, and about sixty-eight privates.

That the officers of each company be chosen by the respective companies.

That each soldier be furnished with a good musket, that will carry an ounce ball, with a bayonet, steel ramrod, worm, priming wire and brush fitted thereto, a cutting sword or tomahawk, a cartridge-box, that will contain twenty-three rounds of cartridges, twelve flints and a knapsack.

That the companies be formed into regiments or battalions, officered with a colonel, lieutenant-colonel, two majors, an adjutant, or quarter-master.

That all officers above the rank of a captain, be appointed by the respective provincial assemblies or conventions, or in their recesses, by the committees of safety appointed by said assemblies or conventions.

That all officers be commissioned by the provincial assemblies or conventions, or in their recesses by the committees of safety appointed by said assemblies or conventions.

That all the militia take proper care to acquire military skill, and be well prepared for defence by being each man provided with one pound of good gun-powder, and four pounds of ball, fitted to his gun.

That one fourth part of the militia in every colony, be selected for minute men, of such persons as are willing to enter into this necessary service, formed into companies and battalions, and their officers chosen and commissioned as aforesaid, to be ready on the shortest notice, to march to any place where their assistance may be required, for the defence of their own or a neighbouring colony; and as these minute men may eventually be called to action before the whole body of the militia are sufficiently trained, it is recommended that a more particular and diligent attention be paid to their instruction in military discipline.

That such of the minute men, as desire it, be relieved by new draughts as aforesaid, from the whole body of the militia, once in four months.

As there are some people, who, from religious principles, cannot bear arms in any case, this Congress intend no violence to their consciences, but earnestly recommend it to them, to contribute liberally in this time of universal calamity, to the relief of their distressed brethren in the several colonies, and to do all other services to their oppressed country, which they can consistently with their religious principles.

That it be recommended to the assemblies or conventions in the respective colonies to provide, as soon as possible, sufficient stores of ammunition for their colonies; also that they devise proper means for furnishing with arms, such effective men as are poor and unable to furnish themselves.

That it be recommended to each colony to appoint a committee of safety, to superintend and direct all matters necessary for the security and defence of their respective colonies, in the recess of their assemblies and conventions.

That each colony, at their own expence, make such provision by armed vessels or otherwise, as their respective assemblies, conventions, or committees of safety shall judge expedient and suitable to their circumstances and situations, for the protection of their harbours and navigation on their sea coasts, against all unlawful invasions, attacks, and depredations, from cutters and ships of war.

That it be recommended to the makers of arms for the use of the militia, that they make good substantial muskets, with barrels three feet and a half in length, that will carry an ounce ball, and fitted with a good bayonet and steel ram-rod, and that the making such arms be encouraged in these United Colonies.

Where in any colony a militia is already formed under regulations approved of by the convention of such colony, or by such assemblies as are annually elective, we refer to the discretion of such convention or assembly, either to adopt the foregoing regulations in the whole or in part, or to continue their former, as they, on consideration of all circumstances, shall think best.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eight o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, July 19, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The president laid before the Congress a letter from the general, with sundry papers enclosed, which were read and considered, whereupon,

Ordered, That Mr. Wilson apply to the committee of the City and Liberties of Philadelphia, and request them to make diligent enquiry what quantity of duck, Russia sheeting, tow-cloth, oznaburgs and ticklenburgs can be procured in this city, and make return as soon as possible to this Congress.

Resolved, That Joseph Trumbull be commissary-general of stores and provisions for the army of the United Colonies.

Resolved, That the appointment of a quarter-master-general, a commissary of musters, and a commissary of artillery, be left to general Washington.

That general Thomas be appointed first brigadier-general, in the army of the United Colonies, in the room of general Pomeroy, who never acted under the commission sent to him, and that general Thomas's commission bear the same date that general Pomeroy's did.

That it be left to general Washington, if he thinks fit, to appoint three brigade-majors, and commission them accordingly.

That a committee of three be appointed to report the method of establishing an hospital.

The committee chosen are, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Paine, and Mr. Middleton.

That it be recommended to the colonies of New-Hampshire,

Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, and Connecticut, to compleat the deficiencies in the regiments belonging to their respective colonies, retained by the general in the continental army before Boston.

That it be recommended to the colony of Rhode-Island, to compleat and send forward to the camp before Boston, as soon as possible, the three hundred and sixty men, lately voted by their general assembly.

That it be recommended to the colony of Connecticut, to compleat and send forward to the camp before Boston, as soon as possible, the fourteen hundred men lately voted by their general assembly.

On motion made, *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to bring in an estimate of the expenses, incurred by the votes and resolves of this Congress.

Mr. Deane, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Cushing chosen.

Agreed, That the Congress meet at this place to-morrow, and from this place go in a body to attend divine service.

Resolved, That the nomination of three of the commissioners for Indian affairs, in the southern department, be left to the council of safety, appointed by the colony of South-Carolina.

That Mr. John Walker, of Virginia, be appointed one of the commissioners for Indian affairs in the southern department.

Adjourned till to-morrow at half past nine o'clock.

THURSDAY, July 20, 1775, half after nine, A. M.

An express arriving with dispatches from general Schuyler, the same were read.

A letter was also received from the convention of Georgia, and read, setting forth, that that colony had acceded to the general association, and appointed delegates to attend this Congress.

Adjourned till one o'clock, P. M.

P. M. met according to adjournment.

The dispatches from general Schuyler being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That general Schuyler be empowered to dispose of and employ all the troops in the New-York department, in such manner as he may think best for the protection and defence of these colonies, the tribes of Indians in friendship and amity with us, and most effectually to promote the general interest, still pursuing, if in his power, the former orders from this Congress, and subject to the future orders of the commander in chief.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eight o'clock.

FRIDAY, July 21, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The committee appointed to prepare an address to the inhabitants of Jamaica, having brought in a draught, the same was read.

Ordered, To lie on the table.

The committee appointed to prepare an address to the people of Ireland, brought in a draught:

Ordered, To lie on the table.

Resolved, That Mr. R. Bache, Mr. Stephen Paschall, and Mr. M. Hillegas, be appointed to superintend the press, and to have the oversight and care of printing the bills of credit ordered to be struck by this Congress.

Resolved, That Mr. Willie Jones, of North-Carolina, be the fifth commissioner of Indian affairs in the southern department.

Agreeable to order, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the state of America, and after some time spent therein, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported that they had come to certain resolutions, which he read, and then desired leave to sit again.

The committee appointed to devise ways and means to protect the trade of these colonies, brought in their report, which was read.

Ordered, That the same be taken into consideration to-morrow morning.

The Congress then entered upon the consideration of the report from the committee of the whole, and after some debate,

Resolved, That such a body of troops be kept up in the Massachusetts-Bay, as general Wallington shall think necessary, provided they do not exceed twenty-two thousand men.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eight o'clock.

SATURDAY, July 22, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

Agreeable to the order of yesterday, the Congress took into consideration the report of the committee appointed to devise ways and means to protect the trade of these colonies, and after some debate, the farther consideration of it was postponed to a future day.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Dr. Franklin, Mr. Jefferson, Mr. J. Adams, and Mr. Lee, be a committee to take into consideration, and report on the resolution of the house of commons, Feb. 20, 1775, commonly called lord North's motion.

Adjourned till Monday at eight o'clock.

Monday being spent in a committee of the whole.

TUESDAY, July 23, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The committee for that purpose appointed, brought in their report for establishing an hospital, which was read.

The committee appointed to consider the ways and means of establishing a post, brought in their report, which was read, and ordered to be considered to-morrow.

The committee appointed to consider and report their opinion of the resolution of the house of commons, brought in their report, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the address to the assembly of Jamaica, and the same being debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows :

Mr. Speaker, and Gentlemen of the Assembly of Jamaica,

We would think ourselves deficient in our duty, if we suffered this Congress to pass over, without expressing our esteem for the assembly of Jamaica.

Whoever attends to the conduct of those who have been entrusted with the administration of British affairs, during these last twelve years, will discover in it, a deliberate plan to destroy, in every part of the empire, the free constitution, for which Britain has been so long and so justly famed. With a dexterity, artful and wicked, they have varied the modes of attack, according to the different characters and circumstances of those whom they meant to reduce. In the East-Indies, where the effeminacy of the inhabitants promised an easy conquest, they thought it unnecessary to veil their tyrannic principles under the thinnest disguise. Without deigning even to pretend a justification of their conduct, they sacrificed the lives of millions to the gratification of their insatiable avarice and lust of power. In Britain, where the maxims of freedom were still known, but where luxury and dissipation had diminished the wonted reverence for them, the attack has been carried on in a more secret and indirect manner : Corruption has been employed to undermine them. The Americans are not enervated by effeminacy, like the inhabitants of India ; nor debauched by luxury, like those of Great-Britain : It was, therefore, judged improper to assail them by bribery, or by undisguised force. Plausible systems were formed ; specious pretences were made : All the arts of sophistry were tried to shew that the British ministry had by law a right to enslave us. The first and best maxims of the constitution, venerable to Britons and to Americans, were perverted and profaned. The power of parliament, derived from the people, to bind the people, was extended over those from whom it was never derived. It is asserted, that a standing army may be constitutionally kept among us, without our consent. Those principles, dishonourable to those who adopted them, and destructive to those to whom they were applied, were nevertheless carried into execution by the foes of liberty and of mankind. Acts of parliament, ruinous to America, and unserviceable to Britain, were made to bind us ; armies, maintained by the parliament, were sent over to secure their operation. The power, however, and the cunning of our adversaries, were alike unsuccessful. We refused to their parliaments an obedience, which our judgments disapproved of : We refused to their armies a submission, which spirits, unaccustomed to slavery, could not brook.

But while we spurned a disgraceful subjection, we were far from running into rash or seditious measures of opposition. Filled with sentiments of loyalty to our sovereign, and of affection and respect for our fellow-subjects in Britain, we petitioned, we supplicated,

we expostulated : Our prayers were rejected ;—our remonstrances were disregarded ;—our grievances were accumulated. All this did not provoke us to violence.

An appeal to the justice and humanity of those who had injured us, and were bound to redress our injuries, was ineffectual ; we next resolved to make an appeal to their interest, though by doing so, we knew we must sacrifice our own, and (which gave us equal uneasiness) that of our friends, who had never offended us, and who were connected with us by a sympathy of feelings, under oppressions similar to our own. We resolved to give up our commerce that we might preserve our liberty. We flattered ourselves, that, when by withdrawing our commercial intercourse with Britain, which we had an undoubted right either to withdraw or continue, her trade should be diminished, her revenues impaired, and her manufactures unemployed, our ministerial foes would be induced by interest, or compelled by necessity, to depart from the plan of tyranny which they had so long pursued, and to substitute in its place, a system more compatible with the freedom of America, and justice of Britain. That this scheme of non-importation and non-exportation might be productive of the desired effects, we were obliged to include the islands in it. From this necessity, and from this necessity alone, has our conduct towards them proceeded. By converting your sugar plantations into fields of grain, you can supply yourselves with the necessaries of life : While the present unhappy struggle shall continue, we cannot do more.

But why should we make any apology to the patriotic assembly of Jamaica, who know so well the value of liberty ; who are so sensible of the extreme danger to which ours is exposed ; and who foresee how certainly the destruction of ours must be followed by the destruction of their own ?

We receive uncommon pleasure from observing the principles of our righteous opposition distinguished by your approbation : We feel the warmest gratitude for your pathetic mediation in our behalf with the crown. It was indeed unavailing—but are you to blame ? Mournful experience tells us, that petitions are often rejected, while the sentiments and conduct of the petitioners entitle what they offer to a happier fate.

That our petitions have been treated with disdain, is now become the smallest part of our complaint : Ministerial insolence is lost in ministerial barbarity. It has, by an exertion peculiarly ingenious, procured those very measures, which it laid us under the hard necessity of pursuing, to be stigmatized in parliament as rebellious : It has employed additional fleets and armies for the infamous purpose of compelling us to abandon them : It has plunged us in all the horrors and calamities of civil war : It has caused the treasure and blood of Britons (formerly shed and expended for far other ends) to be spilt and wasted in the execrable design of spreading slavery over British America : It will not, however, accomplish its aim : It

the worst of contingencies, a choice will still be left, which it never can prevent us from making.

The peculiar situation of your island, forbids your assistance. But we have your good wishes. From the good wishes of the friends of liberty and mankind, we shall always derive consolation.

Ordered, That a fair copy be made out, to be signed by the president, and transmitted by the first opportunity.

The Congress then, resuming the report of the committee of the whole, came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That a body of forces, not exceeding five thousand, be kept up in the New-York department, for the purpose of defending that part of America, and for securing the lakes, and protecting the frontiers from incursions or invasions.

That a farther sum, amounting to the value of one million of Spanish milled dollars, be struck in bills of thirty dollars each.

As the signing so great a number of bills as has been directed to be issued by this Congress, will require more time than the members can possibly devote to that business, consistent with the attention due to the public service,

Resolved, That the following gentlemen be appointed and fully authorized to sign the same, viz. Luke Morris, Samuel Meredith, Judah Foulke, Samuel Morris, Frederick Kuhl, Robert Strettle Jones, Thomas Coombe, Ellis Lewis, John Mease, Thomas Lawrence, Daniel Clymer, John Maxwell Nesbit, Thomas Barclay, John Bayard, William Craig, Thomas Bartow, John Shee, Isaac Hazlehurst, Robert Roberts, Anthony Morris, Mordecai Lewis, George Mifflin, Robert Tuckniss, Andrew Bunner, William Jackson, Joseph Sims, James Milligan, and James Reed.

That each of the continental bills be numbered and signed by two of the above gentlemen.

That each gentleman who signs the continental bills, be allowed and paid out of the continental treasury, one dollar and one-third of a dollar for each and every thousand bills signed, and numbered by him.

That the gentlemen appointed to number and sign the bills, do give their receipts for the same, expressing the number and denomination of them; and after numbering and signing them, shall deliver the same to the continental treasurers, taking their receipts for the bills so delivered.

On motion, *Resolved*, That Mr. Samuel Adams, Mr. Lee, and Mr. J. Rutledge, with the secretary, be a committee to revise the journal of this Congress, and prepare it for the press.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eight o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, July 26, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

Agreeable to order, the Congress resumed the consideration of the report of the committee for establishing a post; and the same being debated, was agreed to as follows:

That a post master-general be appointed for the United Colonies, who shall hold his office at Philadelphia, and shall be allowed a salary of one thousand dollars per annum for himself, and three hundred and forty dollars per annum for a secretary and comptroller, with power to appoint such, and so many deputies as to him may seem proper and necessary.

That a line of posts be appointed under the direction of the post-master-general, from Falmouth in New-England to Savannah in Georgia, with as many cross posts as he shall think fit.

That the allowance to the deputies, in lieu of salary and all contingent expenses, shall be twenty per centum on the sums they collect and pay into the general post-office annually, when the whole is under or not exceeding one thousand dollars, and ten per centum for all sums above one thousand dollars a year.

That the several deputies account quarterly with the general post-office, and the post master-general annually with the continental treasurers, when he shall pay into the receipt of the said treasurers, the profits of the post-office; and if the necessary expense of this establishment should exceed the produce of it, the deficiency shall be made good by the United Colonies, and paid to the post-master-general by the continental treasurers.

On motion made, *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the post-master-general to establish a weekly post to South-Carolina.

That it be left to the post master-general to appoint a secretary and comptroller.

The Congress then proceeded to the election of a post master-general for one year, and until another is appointed by a future Congress, when Benjamin Franklin, Esq; was unanimously chosen.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eight o'clock.

THURSDAY, July 27, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on establishing an hospital for the army, and the same being debated, was agreed to as follows :

That for the establishment of an hospital for an army, consisting of twenty thousand men, the following officers and other attendants be appointed, with the following allowance or pay, viz.

One director-general and chief physician, his pay per day, four dollars.

Four surgeons, each ditto, one and one third of a dollar.

One apothecary, ditto, one and one third of a dollar.

Twenty surgeons mates, each ditto, two thirds of a dollar.

One clerk, ditto, two thirds of a dollar.

Two store-keepers, each four dollars per month.

One nurse to every ten sick, one fifteenth of a dollar per day, or two dollars per month.

Labourers occasionally.

The duty of the above officers :

The director to furnish medicines, bedding and all other necessities, to pay for the same, superintend the whole, and make his report to, and receive orders from the commander in chief.

Surgeons, apothecary and mates. } To visit and attend the sick, and the mates to obey the orders of the physicians, surgeons and apothecary.

Matron. To superintend the nurses, bedding, &c.

Nurses. To attend the sick, and obey the matron's orders.

Clerk. To keep accounts for the director and store-keepers.

Store-keeper. To receive and deliver the bedding and other necessities by order of the director.

The Congress then proceeded to the election of officers for the hospital, when

Benjamin Church was unanimously elected to be director of, and physician in, the hospital.

Resolved, That the appointment of the four surgeons and the apothecary be left to doctor B. Church.

That the mates be appointed by the surgeons.

That the number of mates do not exceed twenty.

That the number be not kept in constant pay, unless the sick and wounded should be so numerous as to require the attendance of twenty, and to be diminished as circumstances will admit; for which purpose, the pay is fixed by the day, that they may only receive pay for actual service.

That one clerk, two store-keepers, and one nurse to every ten sick, be appointed by the director.

On motion made, *Resolved*, That the pay-master give bond, with two sureties, in the sum of fifty thousand dollars, for the faithful performance of his office.

That the bond be made payable to the same persons, to whom the bonds of the continental treasurers are payable.

James Warren, Esq; was then unanimously elected paymaster-general.

Resolved, That the paymaster in the New-York department give bond to the same persons as above directed, with two sureties, in the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, for the faithful performance of his office.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eight o'clock.

FRIDAY, July 28, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

Ordered, That Mr. McKean, and Mr. Willson, prepare the form of bonds for the continental treasurers to execute.

The Congress then proceeded to the election of a paymaster for the forces in the New-York department, when Jonathan Trumbull, jun. Esq; was unanimously elected to that office.

The address to the people of Ireland being again read by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows :

To the people of Ireland. From the delegates appointed by the United Colonies of New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, the lower counties on Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, and South-Carolina, in general Congress at Philadelphia, the 10th of May, 1775.

Friends and Fellow-Subjects !

As the important contest, into which we have been driven, is now become interesting to every European state, and particularly affects the members of the British empire, we think it our duty to address you on the subject. We are desirous, as is natural to injured innocence, of possessing the good opinion of the virtuous and humane. We are peculiarly desirous of furnishing you with a true state of our motives and objects ; the better to enable you to judge of our conduct with accuracy, and determine the merits of the controversy with impartiality and precision.

However incredible it may appear, that, at this enlightened period, the leaders of a nation, which in every age has sacrificed hecatombs of her bravest patriots on the altar of liberty, should presume gravely to assert, and, by force of arms, attempt to establish an arbitrary sway over the lives, liberties, and property of their fellow-subjects in America, it is, nevertheless, a most deplorable and indisputable truth.

Three colonies have, from the time of their first settlement, for near two centuries, peaceably enjoyed those very rights, of which the ministry have, for ten years past, endeavoured, by fraud and by violence to deprive them. At the conclusion of the last war, the genius of England and the spirit of wisdom, as if offended at the ungrateful treatment of their sons, withdrew from the British counsels, and left that nation a prey to a race of ministers, with whom ancient English honesty and benevolence disdained to dwell. From that period, jealousy, discontent, oppression and discord have raged among all his majesty's subjects : and filled every part of his dominions with distress and complaint.

Not content with our purchasing of Britain at her own price, cloathing and a thousand other articles used by near three millions of people on this vast continent ; not satisfied with the amazing profits arising from the monopoly of our trade, without giving us either time to breathe after a long, though glorious war, or the least credit for the blood and treasure we have expended in it ; notwithstanding the zeal we had manifested for the service of our sovereign, and the warmest attachment to the constitution of Britain and the people of England, a black and horrid design was formed, to convert us from freemen into slaves, from subjects into vassals, and from friends into enemies.

Taxes, for the first time since we landed on the American shores, were, without our consent, imposed upon us ; an unconstitutional edict to compel us to furnish necessaries for a standing army, that we wished to see disbanded, was issued ; and the legislature of

New-York suspended for refusing to comply with it. Our antient and inestimable right of trial by jury was, in many instances, abolished; and the common law of the land made to give place to admiralty jurisdictions. Judges were rendered, by the tenure of their commissions, entirely dependent on the will of a minister. New crimes were arbitrarily created; and new courts, unknown to the constitution, instituted. Wicked and insidious governors have been set over us; and dutiful petitions, for the removal of even the notoriously infamous governor Hutchinson, were branded with the opprobrious appellation of scandalous and defamatory. Hardy attempts have been made, under colour of parliamentary authority, to seize Americans, and carry them to Great-Britain to be tried for offences committed in the colonies. Ancient charters have no longer remained sacred, that of the Massachusetts-Bay was violated; and their form of government essentially mutilated and transformed. On pretence of punishing a violation of some private property, committed by a few disguised individuals, the populous and flourishing town of Boston was surrounded by fleets and armies; its trade destroyed; its port blocked up; and thirty thousand citizens subjected to all the miseries attending so sudden a convulsion in their commercial metropolis; and, to remove every obstacle to the rigorous execution of this system of oppression, an act of parliament was passed evidently calculated to indemnify those, who might, in the prosecution of it, even embrue their hands in the blood of the inhabitants.

Though pressed by such an accumulation of undeserved injuries, America still remembered her duty to her sovereign. A Congress, consisting of deputies from twelve United Colonies assembled. They, in the most respectful terms, laid their grievances at the foot of the throne; and implored his majesty's interposition in their behalf. They also agreed to suspend all trade with Great-Britain, Ireland, and the West-Indies; hoping, by this peaceable mode of opposition, to obtain that justice from the British ministry which had been so long solicited in vain. And here permit us to assure you, that it was with the utmost reluctance we could prevail upon ourselves, to cease our commercial connection with your island. Your parliament had done us no wrong. You had ever been friendly to the rights of mankind; and we acknowledge, with pleasure and gratitude, that your nation has produced patriots, who have nobly distinguished themselves in the cause of humanity and America. On the other hand, we were not ignorant that the labour and manufactures of Ireland, like those of the silk-worm, were of little moment to herself; but served only to give luxury to those who neither toil nor spin. We perceived that if we continued our commerce with you, our agreement not to import from Britain would be fruitless, and were, therefore, compelled to adopt a measure, to which nothing but absolute necessity would have reconciled us. It gave us, however, some consolation to reflect, that should it occasion much distress, the fertile regions of America would afford

you a safe asylum from poverty, and, in time, from oppression also; an asylum, in which many thousands of your countrymen have found hospitality, peace, and affluence, and become united to us by all the ties of consanguinity, mutual interest, and affection. Nor did Congress stop here: Flattered by a pleasing expectation, that the justice and humanity which had so long characterized the English nation, would, on proper application, afford us relief, they represented their grievances in an affectionate address to their brethren in Britain, and intreated their aid and interposition in behalf of these colonies.

The more fully to evince their respect for their sovereign, the unhappy people of Boston were requested by the Congress to submit with patience to their fate; and all America united in a resolution to abstain from every species of violence. During this period, that devoted town suffered unspeakably. Its inhabitants were insulted and their property violated. Still relying on the clemency and justice of his majesty and the nation, they permitted a few regiments to take possession of their town, to surround it with fortifications; and to cut off all intercourse between them and their friends in the country.

With anxious expectation did all America wait the event of their petition—All America laments its fate. Their prince was deaf to their complaints: And vain were all attempts to impress him with a sense of the sufferings of his American subjects, of the cruelty of their task-masters, and of the many plagues which impended over his dominions. Instead of directions for a candid enquiry into our grievances, insult was added to oppression; and our long forbearance rewarded with the imputation of cowardice. Our trade with foreign states was prohibited; and an act of parliament passed to prevent our even fishing on our own coasts. Our peaceable assemblies, for the purpose of consulting the common safety, were declared seditious; and our asserting the very rights which placed the crown of Great-Britain on the heads of the three successive princes of the house of Hanover, stiled rebellion. Orders were given to reinforce the troops in America. The wild and barbarous savages of the wilderness have been solicited, by gifts, to take up the hatchet against us; and instigated to deluge our settlements with the blood of innocent and defenceless women and children. The whole country was, moreover, alarmed with the horrors of domestic insurrections. Refinements in parental cruelty, at which the genius of Britain must blush! Refinements which admit not of being even recited without horror, or practised without infamy! We should be happy, were these dark machinations the mere suggestions of suspicion. We are sorry to declare, that we are possessed of the most authentic and indubitable evidence of their reality.

The ministry, bent on pulling down the pillars of the constitution, endeavoured to erect the standard of despotism in America; and if successful, Britain and Ireland may shudder at the consequences!

Three of their most experienced generals are sent to wage war with their fellow-subjects; and America is amazed to find the name of Howe in the catalogue of her enemies: She loved his brother.

Despairing of driving the colonists to resistance by any other means than actual hostility, a detachment of the army at Boston marched into the country in all the array of war; and, unprovoked, fired upon, and killed several of the inhabitants. The neighbouring farmers suddenly assembled, and repelled the attack. From this, all communication between the town and country was intercepted. The citizens petitioned the general for permission to leave the town, and he promised, on surrendering their arms, to permit them to depart with their other effects. They accordingly surrendered their arms, and the general violated his faith. Under various pretences, passports were delayed and denied; and many thousands of the inhabitants are, at this day, confined in the town, in the utmost wretchedness and want. The lame, the blind, and the sick, have, indeed, been turned out into the neighbouring fields; and some, eluding the vigilance of the centries, have escaped from the town, by swimming to the adjacent shores.

The war having thus began on the part of general Gage's troops, the country armed and embodied. The reinforcements from Ireland soon after arrived; a vigorous attack was then made upon the provincials. In their march, the troops surrounded the town of Charlestown, consisting of about four hundred houses, then recently abandoned to escape the fury of a relentless soldiery. Having plundered the houses, they set fire to the town, and reduced it to ashes. To this wanton waste of property, unknown to civilized nations, they were prompted the better to conceal their approach under cover of the smoke. A shocking mixture of cowardice and cruelty, which then first tarnished the lustre of the British arms, when aimed at a brother's breast! But, blessed be God, they were restrained from committing farther ravages, by the loss of a very considerable part of their army, including many of their most experienced officers. The loss of the inhabitants was inconsiderable.

Compelled, therefore, to behold thousands of our countrymen imprisoned, and men, women and children involved in promiscuous and unmerited misery! When we find all faith at an end, and sacred treaties turned into tricks of state; when we perceive our friends and kinsmen massacred, our habitations plundered, our houses in flames, and their once-happy inhabitants fed only by the hand of charity; who can blame us for endeavouring to restrain the progress of desolation? who can censure our repelling the attacks of such a barbarous band? who, in such circumstances, would not obey the great, the universal, the divine law of self preservation?

Though vilified as wanting spirit, we are determined to behave like men—though insulted and abused, we wish for reconciliation—though defamed as seditious, we are ready to obey the laws—and though charged with rebellion, will cheerfully bleed in defence

of our sovereign in a righteous cause. What more can we say? What more can we offer?

But we forbear to trouble you with a tedious detail of the various and fruitless offers and applications we have repeatedly made, not for pensions, for wealth, or for honours, but for the humble boon of being permitted to possess the fruits of honest industry, and to enjoy that degree of liberty, to which God and the constitution have given us an undoubted right.

Blessed with an indissoluble union, with a variety of internal resources, and with a firm reliance on the justice of the supreme Disposer of all human Events, we have no doubt of rising superior to all the machinations of evil and abandoned ministers. We already anticipate the golden period, when liberty, with all the gentle arts of peace and humanity, shall establish her mild dominion in this western world, and erect eternal monuments to the memory of those virtuous patriots and martyrs, who shall have fought and bled and suffered in her cause.

Accept our most grateful acknowledgments for the friendly disposition you have always shewn towards us. We know that you are not without your grievances. We sympathize with you in your distress, and are pleased to find that the design of subjugating us, has persuaded administration to dispense to Ireland, some vagrant rays of ministerial sunshine. Even the tender mercies of government have long been cruel towards you. In the rich pastures of Ireland, many hungry parricides have fed, and grown strong to labour in its destruction. We hope the patient abiding of the meek may not always be forgotten; and God grant that the iniquitous schemes of extirpating liberty from the British empire may be soon defeated. But we should be wanting to ourselves—we should be perfidious to posterity—we should be unworthy that ancestry from which we derive our descent, should we submit, with folded arms, to military butchery and depredation, to gratify the lordly ambition, or sate the avarice of a British ministry. In defence of our persons and properties, under actual violation, we have taken up arms; when that violence shall be removed, and hostilities cease on the part of the aggressors, they shall cease on our part also.—For the achievement of this happy event, we confide in the good offices of our fellow-subjects beyond the Atlantic. Of their friendly disposition, we do not yet despond; aware, as they must be, that they have nothing more to expect from the same common enemy, than the humble favour of being last devoured.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eight o'clock.

SATURDAY, July 29, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report from the committee of the whole, and came to the following resolution:

Resolved, That the pay of the commissary-general of musters be forty dollars per month.

Deputy commissary-general of stores and provisions, sixty dollars per ditto.

Deputy adjutant-general, fifty dollars per do.

Deputy muster-master-general, forty dollars per do.

Brigade-major, thirty-three dollars per do.

Commissary of artillery, thirty dollars per do.

Judge advocate, twenty dollars per do.

Colonel, fifty dollars per do.

Lieutenant-colonel, forty dollars per do.

Major, thirty-three dollars and one-third per do.

Captain, twenty dollars per do.

Lieutenant, thirteen dollars and one-third per do.

Ensign, ten dollars per do.

Serjeant, eight dollars per do.

Corporal, drummer, and fifer, each seven dollars and one-third per do.

Private, six dollars and two-thirds per do.

Adjutant, eighteen dollars and one-third per do.

Quarter-master, eighteen dollars and one-third per do.

Chaplan, twenty dollars per do.

That the pay of the light-infantry be the same as that in the regiment from a captain to a private, both inclusive.

That in the artillery, the pay of a captain be twenty-six dollars and two-thirds per month.

Captain-lieutenant, twenty dollars per do.

Lieutenants, first and second, eighteen dollars and one-third per ditto.

Lieutenant fireworker, thirteen dollars and one-third, per ditto.

Serjeant, eight dollars and one-third per ditto.

Corporal, seven dollars and a half per month.

Bombardier, seven dollars per ditto.

Matros, six dollars and five-sixths of a dollars per ditto.

That the appointment of provost-martial, waggon-master, and master carpenter be left to the commander in chief of the army, who is to fix their pay, having regard to the pay they receive in the ministerial army, and the proportion that the pay of the officers in said army bears to the pay of our officers.

William Tudor, Esq; was elected judge advocate of the army.

Resolved, That Michael Hillgas, and George Clymer, Esqrs; be joint treasurers of the United Colonies: That the treasurers reside in Philadelphia, and that they shall give bond, with surety, for the faithful performance of their office, in the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, to John Hancock, Henry Middleton, John Dickinson, John Allop, Thomas Lynch, Richard Henry Lee, and James Wilson, Esqrs; and the survivor of them, in trust for the United Colonies.

That the provincial assemblies or conventions do each choose a treasurer for their respective colonies, and take sufficient security for the faithful performance of the trust.

That each colony provide ways and means to sink its proportion of the bills ordered to be emitted by this Congress, in such manner as may be most effectual and best adapted to the condition, circumstances, and equal mode of levying taxes in such colony.

That the proportion or quota of each colony be determined according to the number of inhabitants, of all ages, including negroes and mulattoes in each colony; but, as this cannot at present be ascertained, that the quotas of the several colonies be settled for the present as follows, to undergo a revision and correction, when the list of each colony is obtained.

New-Hampshire,	-	124069 and a half
Massachusetts-Bay,	-	434244
Rhode-Island,	- -	71959 and a half
Connecticut,	- -	248139
New-York,	- -	248139
New-Jersey,	- -	161290 and a half
Pennsylvania,	- -	372208 and a half
Delaware,	- - -	37219 and a half
Maryland,	- -	310174 and a half
Virginia,	- -	496278
North-Carolina,	- -	248139
South-Carolina,	- -	248139

—3,000000

That each colony pay its respective quota in four equal annual payments, the first payment to be made on or before the last day of November, which will be in the year of our Lord, 1779; the second, on or before the last day of November, 1780; the third, on or before the last day of November, 1781; and the fourth or last, on or before the last day of November, 1782; and that for this end, the several provincial assemblies, or conventions, provide for laying and levying taxes in their respective provinces or colonies, towards sinking the continental bills: That the said bills be received by the collectors in payment of such taxes, and be by the collectors paid into the hands of the provincial treasurers, with all such other monies as they may receive in lieu of the continental bills, which other monies the said provincial treasurer shall endeavour to get exchanged for continental bills, and where that cannot be done, shall send to the continental treasurers the deficiency in silver or gold, with the bills making up the quota to be sunk in that year, taking care to cut, by a circular punch, of an inch diameter, an hole in each bill, and to cross the same, thereby to render them unpas- sible, though the sum or value is to remain fairly legible: And the continental treasurers, as fast as they receive the said quotas, shall, with the assistance of a committee of five persons, to be appointed by the Congress, if sitting, or by the assembly or convention of the province of Pennsylvania, examine and count the continental bills, and in the presence of the said committee, burn and destroy them. And the silver and gold sent them to make up the deficiencies of quotas, they shall retain in their hands until demanded in redemption of continental bills, that may be brought to them for that pur-

pose, which bills so redeemed, they shall also burn and destroy in presence of the said committee. And the said treasurers, whenever they have silver or gold in their hands for the redemption of continental bills, shall advertise the same, signifying that he is ready to give silver or gold for such bills, to all persons requiring it in exchange.

The provincial treasurers and collectors are to have such allowances for their respective services, as shall be directed by the several assemblies or conventions, to be paid by their respective province or colony.

That the continental treasurers be allowed for their service this year, five hundred dollars each.

Resolved, That the paymaster general, commissary general, quarter-master general, and every of their deputies, shall take an oath, truly and faithfully to discharge the duties of their respective stations.

Ordered, That the continental treasurers do pay to colonel William Thompson, or his order, five thousand dollars, on account, being by advance for the service of a battalion of riflemen under his command.

Resolved, That this Congress will, as soon as the public business permits, adjourn to the fifth of September next.

Resolved, That the Congress will, on Monday next, consider of the state of trade, after the tenth of next September.

Mr. McKean, from the committee, reported the form of a bond, to be given by the joint continental treasurers.

Ordered, That the said committee do inspect into the sufficiency of the sureties.

Adjourned till Monday at eight o'clock.

MONDAY, July 31, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on the resolve of the house of commons, and the same being debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows :

The several assemblies of New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, having referred to the Congress a resolution of the house of commons of Great-Britain, which resolution is in these words :

Luna, 20^o Die Feb. 1775.

“ The house in a committee on the American papers. Motion made, and question proposed :

“ That it is the opinion of this committee, that when the general council and assembly, or general court of any of his majesty's provinces, or colonies in America, shall propose to make provision, according to the condition, circumstance, or situation of such province or colony, for contributing their proportion to the common defence (such proportion to be raised under the authority of the general court, or general assembly of such province or colony, and disposable by parliament) and shall engage to make provision also, for the support of the civil government, and the administration of justice in such province or colony, it will be proper if such propo-

shall be approved by his majesty, and the two houses of parliament, and for so long as such provision shall be made accordingly, to forbear in respect of such province or colony to lay any duty, tax, or assessment, or to impose any farther duty, tax, or assessment, except only such duties as it may be expedient to continue to levy or impose, for the regulation of commerce; the net produce or the duties last mentioned, to be carried to the account of such province or colony respectively."

The Congress took the said resolution into consideration, and are, thereupon, of opinion,

That the colonies of America are entitled to the sole and exclusive privilege of giving and granting their own money: that this involves a right of deliberating whether they will make any gift for what purposes it shall be made, and what shall be its amount; and that it is a high breach of this privilege for any body of men, extraneous to their constitutions, to prescribe the purposes for which money shall be levied on them, to take to themselves the authority of judging of their conditions, circumstances and situations, and of determining the amount of the contribution to be levied.

That as the colonies possess a right of appropriating their gifts, so are they entitled at all times to enquire into their application, to see that they be not wasted among the venal and corrupt for the purpose of undermining the civil rights of the givers, nor yet be diverted to the support of standing armies, inconsistent with their freedom and subversive of their quiet. To propose, therefore, as this resolution does, that the monies given by the colonies shall be subject to the disposal of parliament alone, is to propose that they shall relinquish this right of enquiry, and put it in the power of others to render their gifts ruinous, in proportion as they are liberal.

That this privilege of giving or of withholding our monies, is an important barrier against the undue exertion of prerogative, which, if left altogether without controul, may be exercised to our great oppression; and all history shows how efficacious is its intercessions for redress of grievances and re-establishment of rights, and how improvident it would be to part with so powerful a mediator.

We are of opinion that the proposition contained in this resolution is unreasonable and insidious: Unreasonable, because, if we declare we accede to it, we declare, without reservation, we will purchase the favour of parliament, not knowing at the same time at what price they will please to estimate their favour; it is insidious, because, individual colonies, having bid and bidden again, till they find the avidity of the seller too great for all their powers to satisfy; are then to return into opposition, divided from their sister colonies whom the minister will have previously detached by a grant of easier terms, or by an artful procrastination of a definitive answer.

That the suspension of the exercise of their pretended power of taxation being expressly made commensurate with the continuance of our gifts, these must be perpetual to make that so. Whereas no experience has shown that a gift of perpetual revenue secures a per-

petual return of duty or of kind disposition. On the contrary, the parliament itself, wisely attentive to this observation, are in the established practice of granting their supplies from year to year only.

Desirous and determined, as we are, to consider, in the most dispassionate view, every seeming advance towards a reconciliation made by the British parliament, let our brethren of Britain reflect, what would have been the sacrifice to men of free spirits, had even fair terms been proffered, as these insidious proposals were with circumstances of insult and defiance. A proposition to give our money, accompanied with large fleets and armies, seems addressed to our fears rather than to our freedom. With what patience would Britons have received articles of treaty from any power on earth when borne on the point of the bayonet by military plenipotentiaries?

We think the attempt unnecessary to raise upon us by force or by threats our proportional contributions to the common defence, when all know, and themselves acknowledge, we have fully contributed, whenever called upon to do so in the character of freemen.

We are of opinion it is not just that the colonies should be required to oblige themselves to other contributions, while Great-Britain possesses a monopoly of their trade. This of itself lays them under heavy contribution. To demand, therefore, additional aids in the form of a tax, is to demand the double of their equal proportion: if we are to contribute equally with the other parts of the empire, let us equally with them enjoy free commerce with the whole world. But while the restrictions on our trade shut to us the resources of wealth, is it just we should bear all other burthens equally with those to whom every resource is open?

We conceive that the British parliament has no right to intermeddle with our provisions for the support of civil government, or administration of justice. The provisions we have made, are such as please ourselves, and are agreeable to our own circumstances: They answer the substantial purposes of government and of justice, and other purposes than these should not be answered. We do not mean that our people shall be burthened with oppressive taxes, to provide sinecures for the idle or the wicked, under colour of providing for a civil list. While parliament pursue their plan of civil government within their own jurisdiction, we also hope to pursue ours without molestation.

We are of opinion the proposition is altogether unsatisfactory, because it imports only a suspension of the mode, not a renunciation of the pretended right to tax us: because, too, it does not propose to repeal the several acts of parliament passed for the purposes of restraining the trade, and altering the form of government of one of our colonies: extending the boundaries and changing the government of Quebec; enlarging the jurisdiction of the courts of admiralty and vice-admiralty; taking from us the right of trial by a jury of the vicinage, in cases affecting both life and property; transporting us into other countries to be tried for criminal offences; exempting, by mock-trial, the murder and other crimes from punishment; and quartering soldiers on us in times of profound peace.

Nor do they renounce the power of suspending our own legislatures, and for legislating for us themselves in all cases whatsoever. On the contrary, to shew they mean to discontinuance of injury, they pass acts, at the very time of holding out this proposition, for restraining the commerce and fisheries of the provinces of New-England, and for interdicting the trade of other colonies with all foreign nations, and with each other. This proves, unequivocally, they mean not to relinquish the exercise of indiscriminate legislation over us.

Upon the whole, this proposition seems to have been held up to the world, to deceive it into a belief that there was nothing in dispute between us but the mode of levying taxes; and that the parliament having now been so good as to give up this, the colonies are unreasonable if not perfectly satisfied: Whereas, in truth, our adversaries still claim a right of demanding *ad libitum*, and of taxing us themselves to the full amount of their demand, if we do comply with it. This leaves us without any thing we can call propriety. But, what is of more importance, and what in this proposal they keep out of sight, as if no such point was now in contest between us, they claim a right to alter our charters and establish laws, and leave us without any security for our lives or liberties. The proposition seems also to have been calculated more particularly to lull into fatal security, our well-affected fellow-subjects on the other side the water, till time should be given for the operation of those arms, which a British minister pronounced would instantaneously reduce the "cowardly" sons of America to unreserved submission. But, when the world reflects, how inadequate to justice are these vaunted terms; when it attends to the rapid and bold succession of injuries, which, during the course of eleven years, have been aimed at these colonies; when it reviews the pacific and respectful expostulations, which, during that whole time, were the sole arms we opposed to them; when it observes that our complaints were either not heard at all, or were answered with new and accumulated injuries; when it recollects that the minister himself, on an early occasion, declared, "that he would never treat with America, till he had brought her to his feet," and that an avowed partisan of ministry has more lately denounced against us the dreadful sentence, "*delenda est Carthago*;" that this was done in presence of a British senate, and being unproved by them, must be taken to be their own sentiment, (especially as the purpose has already in part been carried into execution, by their treatment of Boston and burning of Charlestown;) when it considers the great armaments with which they have invaded us, and the circumstances of cruelty with which these have commenced and prosecuted hostilities; when these things, we say, are laid together and attentively considered, can the world be deceived into an opinion that we are unreasonable, or can it hesitate to believe with us, that nothing but our own exertions may defeat the ministerial sentence of death or abject submission.

On motion made, *Resolved*, That Mr. Langdon, Mr. J. Adams, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Deane, Mr. Clinton, Mr. Crane, Doctor Franklin, Mr. Rodney, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Henry, Mr. Hewes, Mr. Gad-

den, and Mr. Hall, be a committee, in the recess of Congress, to make enquiry in all the colonies, after virgin lead, and leaden ore, and the best methods of collecting, smelting, and refining it.

Resolved, That the above named gentlemen be a committee, in the recess of the Congress, to enquire into the cheapest and easiest methods of making salt in these colonies.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress took under consideration the state of trade after the tenth of September, and after some debate, the same was postponed to a future day.

On motion, *Resolved*, That when the Congress adjourns for recess, it be adjourned to meet at Philadelphia.

Two petitions, one from sundry merchants in New-York, and the other from sundry merchants in Philadelphia, respecting the sale of teas imported before the late association, were laid before the Congress.

Ordered, To lie on the table.

Adjourned till to-morrow at eight o'clock.

TUESDAY, August 1, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

Resolved, That the sum of five hundred thousand dollars be immediately forwarded from the continental treasury, to the paymaster general, to be applied to the use of the army in Massachusetts-Bay, in such manner, as general Washington, or the commander in chief for the time being, by his warrants, shall limit and appoint; and if the above sum shall be expended before the next meeting of the Congress, then that general Washington, or the commander in chief for the time being, be empowered to draw upon the continental treasury, for the sum of two hundred thousand dollars, in favour of the paymaster-general, to be applied for the use and in the manner above-mentioned.

Ordered, That the delegates for Pennsylvania be a committee to receive and count the above sum of five hundred thousand dollars, and forward the same, under the care of the delegates of Massachusetts-Bay, provided so much is now ready in the treasury. If that is not the case, then to receive, count, and forward, by the said delegates, what is ready, and the remainder by the first opportunity in the safest and best manner.

Resolved, That a sum not exceeding one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars be paid to the provincial convention of New-York, to be applied towards the discharge of the monies advanced and the debts contracted for the public service, by the said provincial convention and the committee of Albany, in pursuance of the directions of this Congress; and that the said provincial convention account to this Congress, at their next meeting, for the application of the said money.

Resolved, That the treasurers be, and they are hereby, ordered to pay to the delegates of the colony of Connecticut, viz. Eliphalet Dyer, Roger Sherman, and Silas Deane, Esqrs; the sum of fifty thousand dollars, to be by them paid unto the governor and company of the said colony, in part of the sums by them disbursed

in the continental service : The said governor and company to account therefor.

Resolved, That the sum of one hundred thousand dollars be immediately forwarded from the continental treasury, to the paymaster general, to be applied to the use of the army in the New-York department, in such manner as general Schuyler, by his warrant, shall limit and appoint ; and that if the above sum shall be expended before the next meeting of the Congress, then that general Schuyler, or the commander in chief, for the time being, in that department, be empowered to draw upon the continental treasury, for a further sum, not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars, to be applied for the use and in the manner above mentioned.

Resolved, That the sum of sixteen thousand dollars be paid to the delegates of the colony of Pennsylvania, in full for the like sum by them borrowed by order of the Congress, on the 3d of June last, for the use of the continent.

Resolved, That the sum of ten thousand dollars be placed in the hands of the delegates of Pennsylvania, or any three of them, for contingent services, and that out of the same, be paid the expenses incurred for raising and arming the rifle companies, and for expresses and other small charges, of which the Congress have not been able to procure exact accounts ; and that the said committee do lay before the Congress, at their next meeting, an account of their proceedings in that matter.

Whereas, at a former Congress it was resolved, that, if certain acts of parliament, in the continental association enumerated and complained of, should not be repealed on or before the 10th day of September, 1775, the inhabitants of these United Colonies would not, directly or indirectly, export any merchandize or commodity whatsoever, to Great-Britain, Ireland, or the West-Indies ; and as some doubts have arisen with respect to the true spirit and construction of said resolve ; to the end, that such doubts may be removed,

Resolved, That under the prohibition, in the said association contained, to export to, or import from, the islands of Great-Britain and Ireland, this Congress intends to comprize all exportation to, or importation from, the islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, and Man, and every European island and settlement within the British dominions ; and that under the denomination of the West-Indies, this Congress means to comprehend all the West-India islands, British and foreign, to whatever state, power, or prince belonging, or by whomsoever governed, and also the Summer islands, Bahama islands, Barbiccia and Surinam on the Main, and every island and settlement within the latitude of the southern line of Georgia and the equator.

Adjourned to Tuesday, the fifth of September next.

The above is a copy of the journal of the proceedings of the Congress, from their meeting on the tenth of May, to this time, except that some resolutions, relative to military operations, carrying on, are omitted.

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

CHARLES THOMPSON, *Sec'y.*

JOURNALS OF CONGRESS.

WEDNESDAY, September 5, 1775.

A CREEABLE to adjournment, the president and a number of the members met, but there not being sufficient to enter upon business, the Congress was adjourned from day to day until Wednesday the 13th.

WEDNESDAY, September 13, 1775.

Met according to adjournment.

The province of Georgia, having appointed delegates to represent that colony in Congress, and three of the delegates attending, their credentials were produced, read, and approved, and are as follows:

Georgia. The alarming and critical situation of affairs upon the continent of America, having, at length, roused the attention of this province, and the several inhabitants thereof, being desirous of uniting with their sister colonies in the great and important cause, a general election was held throughout the province for delegates to sit in provincial Congress; and the said delegates having so met in Savannah, on the fourth day of July, proceeded upon the consideration of such business as appeared to be fit and necessary; and among other things, they made choice of five delegates to represent this province in the grand continental Congress, now sitting in Philadelphia, viz. Archibald Bullock, Esq; John Houston, Esq; the rev. Dr. Zubly, Noble Wimberly Jones, Esq; and Lyman Hall, Esq; Now, therefore, be it known, and we, the several delegates for the different parishes and districts in this province, in provincial Congress assembled, do hereby declare the said Archibald Bullock, and John Houston, Esqrs; the rev. Dr. Zubly, Noble Wimberly Jones, and Lyman Hall, Esqrs; duly and fairly elected, as the delegates for this province; and we do authorize and require the said Archibald Bullock, and John Houston, Esqrs; the rev. Dr. Zubly, Noble Wimberly Jones, and Lyman Hall, Esqrs; or any three of them, immediately to repair to the said city of Philadelphia, and there to take their seats as the representatives of the province of Georgia, in the general Congress now sitting, to do, transact, join, and concur with the several delegates from the other colonies and provinces upon this continent, in all such matters and things as shall appear eligible and fit, at this alarming time, for the preservation and defence of our rights and liberties, and for the restoration of harmony upon constitutional principles, between Great-Britain and America.

And we give and grant to the said Archibald Bullock, and John Houston, Esqrs; the rev. Dr. Zubly, Noble Wimberly Jones, and Lyman Hall, Esqrs; or any three of them, in whose fidelity, honour,

and ability we very much confide, our full and whole power in the premises; and do promise and engage, in behalf of ourselves and our constituents respectively, (the inhabitants of the province of Georgia) under the sacred ties of virtue, honour, and love of our country, to abide by, enforce, and carry into execution, or endeavour, at the risque and expence of life and property so to do, all and whatsoever our said delegates, or any three of them, in concurrence with the rest of the delegates from the several colonies and provinces upon this continent, shall resolve and agree upon, or, as shall be agreed and resolved upon by the said continental Congress, now sitting in Philadelphia aforesaid, while our said delegates or any three of them shall be so sitting.

Signed in provincial Congress, this fifteenth day of July, 1775, by 53 members.

The delegates from Virginia, appointed by a convention of that colony, at Richmond, August 11, 1775, produced their credentials, which were read and approved, as follows:

VIRGINIA. In Convention, August 11, 1775.

The convention being about to proceed to the choice of deputies to represent this colony in general Congress, Edmund Pendleton, Esq; expressed his most grateful acknowledgments for the honour done him in two former appointments to that important trust, but, on account of the declining state of his health, entreated to be excused from the present nomination, which excuse being accepted,

Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of this convention are justly due to George Washington, Patrick Henry, and Edmund Pendleton, Esqrs; three of the worthy deputies, who represented this colony in the late continental Congress, for their faithful discharge of that important trust, and this body are only induced to dispense with their future services of the like nature, by the appointment of the two former to other offices in the public service, incompatible with their attendance on this, and the infirm state of health of the latter.

The convention then proceeded to the appointment of deputies to represent this colony in general Congress, for one year, and the members having prepared tickets, with the names of the deputies to be appointed, and put the same into the ballot-box, Mr. Robert Carter Nicholas, Mr. Cary, Mr. Pendleton, and Mr. Adams were appointed to examine the ballot-box, and report upon whom the majority fell, who retired, and after some time, returned into convention, and reported, that they had, according to order, examined the ballot-box, and that the numbers appeared as follows:

For the hon. Peyton Randolph, Esq;	89
Richard Henry Lee, Esq;	88
Thomas Jefferson, Esq;	85
Benjamin Harrison, Esq;	83
Thomas Nelson, Esq;	66
Richard Bland, Esq;	61
George Wythe, Esq;	58

Resolved, That the said Peyton Randolph, Richard Henry Lee, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Harrison, Thomas Nelson, Richard Bland, and George Wythe, Esqrs; be appointed deputies to represent this colony in general Congress for one year, and that they have power to meet and to adjourn for such time and to such place or places as may be thought most proper.

Resolved, That the said deputies, or any four of them, be a sufficient number to represent this colony.

Saturday, August 12, 1775.

Richard Bland, Esq; returned this convention his most grateful acknowledgments for the great honour they had pleased a third time to confer on him, by appointing him one of the deputies to represent this colony in general Congress, and said this fresh instance of their approbation was sufficient for an old man, almost deprived of sight, whose greatest ambition had ever been to receive the plaudit of his country, whenever he should retire from the public stage of life: That the honorable testimony he lately received of this approbation, joined with his present appointment, should ever animate him, as far as he was able, to support the glorious cause in which America is now engaged, but that his advanced age rendered him incapable of taking an active part in those weighty and important concerns, which must necessarily be agitated in the great council of the United Colonies; and, therefore, begging leave to decline the honour they had been pleased to confer on him, and desiring that some person, more fit and able, might supply his place.

Resolved unanimously, That the thanks of this convention are justly due to the said Richard Bland, Esq; one of the worthy deputies who represented this colony in the late continental Congress, for his faithful discharge of that important trust, and this body are only induced to dispense with his future services of the like nature, on account of his advanced age.

Tuesday, August 15, 1775.

The convention proceeded to the appointment of a deputy to represent this colony in general Congress, in the room of Richard Bland, Esq; who hath resigned, and the members having prepared tickets, with the name of the deputy to be appointed, a committee was appointed to examine the ballot-box, and report on whom the majority fell; who retired, and after some time reported, that the numbers stood as follows:

Francis Lightfoot Lee, Esq; 37

Carter Braxton, Esq; 36

Resolved, That the said Francis Lightfoot Lee, Esq; be appointed a deputy to represent this colony in general Congress.

(Signed) *John Tazewell*, clerk of the convention.

The delegates from Maryland also produced the credentials of their appointment, which were read and approved, as follows:

At a meeting of the delegates appointed by the several counties of the province of Maryland, at the city of Annapolis, on Wednesday

day, the 26th of July, 1775, and continued till the 14th day of August in the same year :

Resolved, That the honorable Matthew Tilghman, Esq; and Thomas Johnson, jun. Robert Goldsborough, William Paca, Samuel Chase, Thomas Stone, and John Hall, Esqrs; or any three or more of them, be deputies to represent this province in continental Congress, and that they, or any three or more of them, have full and ample power to consent and agree to all measures, which such Congress shall deem necessary and effectual to obtain a redress of American grievances; and further, we do authorise our said deputies, to represent and act for this province in any continental Congress, which may be held before the 25th day of March next.

(Signed)

G. Duvall, clerk.

The Congress being informed that only 172,520 dollars have been transmitted to the paymaster-general for the use of the army in the Massachusetts-Bay, and that the general was under great difficulty for want of money :

Ordered, That the delegates for Pennsylvania do immediately send, under a proper guard, to the paymaster-general, for the use of the army in the Massachusetts-Bay, the sum of 527,480 dollars, which, with that sent, will make up the sum of 700,000 dollars voted at the last session.

Sundry letters received during the recess of Congress, were produced and read, viz.

Two from general Washington, No. 4, and 5, with sundry enclosed papers; four from general Schuyler, 16th and 21st of July, and 2d and 31st of August, with sundry papers enclosed.

One from Messrs. L. Morris, and J. Wilson, of 6th September.

One from G. Bedford, deputy muster-master general, with enclosed papers.

Also, a letter from the deputies of the several districts in the island of Bermuda, dated 12th of August, with an account of the provisions imported and expended in that island, for three years last past, taken from the custom-house books, and an estimate of the provisions necessary for the support of the inhabitants for one year.

A memorial from James Stewart and Samuel Jackson, owners of the ship Friendship, Thomas Jann, master, was presented to Congress and read, setting forth that the said ship, on the 28th of August last, sailed from Maryland with a cargo of tobacco, but being overtaken by the late storm, she was driven on shoals and much damaged, and got into Hampton road, with the loss of all her masts; and praying that the memorialists may be allowed to unload said ship, and that after being refitted, she may take the said cargo on board, and proceed on her voyage.

The Congress, taking into consideration the above memorial,

Resolved, That the said cargo be unloaded under the inspection of the committee of Norfolk, and that the said ship, being refitted, be allowed to take said cargo on board again, and proceed on her voyage; and in case, on examination, the said ship is condemned as

unfit for sea, that the said cargo be put on board some other vessel, under the inspection of the committee aforesaid, and exported.

Information being given to Congress, that Dr. Franklin had on board the *Mary and Elizabeth*, capt. N. Falconer, from London, sundry cases, containing his books, papers and household furniture, which were in his use when he lived in London, and which were imported for his own use, and not for sale; and it being submitted to the consideration of the Congress, whether such importation is comprehended within the first article of association,

Resolved, That such importation is not to be comprehended within the meaning of the said first article of the association, and that the said books, papers and furniture may be landed and delivered to the owner.

A memorial from the committee of the county of Westmoreland, in the province of Pennsylvania, was presented and read.

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, September 14, 1775.

A number of letters received by several members, during the recess of Congress, being produced, were read:

First. A letter from Joseph Hawley, Esq; excusing his not acting as a commissioner for Indian affairs, on account of his bad state of health.

Second, A letter from Elisha Phelps, appointed a commissary for the northern army by governor Trumbull, in pursuance of an order of Congress, together with a copy of his commission and appointment.

Third, A letter from J. Reade, Esq; secretary to general Washington, among other things, intimating the desire of the general, that the cloathing lately intercepted by the committee of Philadelphia, should be forwarded to the camp for the use of the American army.

Ordered, That the above cloathing be immediately forwarded, under a proper guard, by the delegates of Pennsylvania, to general Washington, for the use of the American army.

Fourth, A letter from the committee of safety in New-York, with an enclosed copy of a letter from general Washington:

These being taken into consideration;

Ordered, That the delegates for Pennsylvania, prepare and lay before the Congress to-morrow, an account of the powder, belonging to the United Colonies, received, and how it is disposed of, also an account of all the powder now in this city.

Resolved, That Edward Flemming, Esq. be appointed deputy adjutant-general for the army in the New-York or northern department, with the rank of a colonel, and that the president make out a commission for him accordingly, and forward the same by the first opportunity.

Resolved, That the president forward to general Schuyler, four hundred blank commissions for the officers in his army, to be by him filled up, agreeable to the order of Congress.

Fifth, Sundry letters from general Schuyler, which being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That Samuel Stringer, Esq; be appointed director of the hospital, and chief physician, and surgeon, for the army in the northern department.

That the pay of the said Samuel Stringer, as director, physician, and surgeon, be four dollars per day.

That he be authorized and have power to appoint a number of surgeons' mates under him, not exceeding four.

That the pay of said mates be two-thirds of a dollar per day.

That the number be not kept in constant pay, unless the sick and wounded be so numerous as to require the constant attendance of four, and to be diminished as circumstances will admit, for which reason the pay is fixed by the day, that they may only receive pay for actual service.

That the deputy commissary-general be directed to pay doctor Stringer for the medicines he has purchased for the use of the army, and that he purchase and forward such other medicines as general Schuyler shall, by his warrant, direct, for the use of said army.

That Mr. Dyer, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Jay, Mr. J. Adams, and Mr. Lewis, be a committee to devise ways and means for supplying the continental army with medicines.

The delegates for Pennsylvania, appointed, at the last session, a committee to settle and pay the expenses incurred for raising and arming the rifle companies, as well as those incurred in consequence of a resolve for raising a company of hussars, and for expresses, &c. informed the Congress, that on account of sundry difficulties, they had not executed that service, and desired that some members from other colonies, where debts have been contracted, may be added; whereupon,

Resolved, That Mr. Chase, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Crane, Mr. Jay, and Mr. Deane, be added to the delegates for Pennsylvania, and that any five of them be a quorum to settle and pay the above accounts, and make report of their proceedings to Congress.

The delegates from the colony of Georgia, informed the Congress, that agreeable to an order from their constituents, they had sundry papers from that colony to lay before the Congress.

The papers, being produced, were read.

The commissioners for Indian affairs, in the northern department, having transmitted to the Congress the minutes of a treaty held with the Six Nations at Albany in August. the same were read.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the letter received from Messrs. L. Morris and J. Wilton, of the 6th instant.

Resolved, That col. Lewis Morris, who is now at Pittsburg, be, and he is hereby empowered to act as a commissioner for Indian affairs in the middle department, at the treaty proposed to be held there on the 23d instant. Dr. Franklin, the standing commissioner, not being able to attend.

Ordered, That the president write to Messrs. Morris and Wilson, and inform them of the foregoing resolution.

Adjourned till ten o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, September 15, 1775.

Resolved, That Dr. Thomas Walker be appointed a commissioner for Indian affairs in the middle department, in the room of P. Henry, Esq; who has declined that service.

The delegates from Georgia informed the Congress, that when the convention of that colony agreed to enter into the continental association, they resolved, among other things, "that if any vessel arrived from Great-Britain, between the sixth day of July and the sixth of August, the goods imported should, at the option of the importer either be re-shipped, or put into store, and there remain until the Congress determined what should be done with them"—That during that time two vessels had arrived with goods, which were stored, they therefore desired the determination of the Congress on that matter.

After some debate thereon,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention of Georgia to cause the cargoes, which have arrived there from Great-Britain or Ireland, between the sixth day of July and the sixth day of August, at the election of the proprietors, either to be sent back or sold at public auction; that out of the monies arising from such sales the proprietors or shippers, be paid the prime cost of said cargoes and all charges attending the same, and that the overplus be retained by the said convention, and by them applied toward putting their province into a posture of defence.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow.

SATURDAY, September 16, 1775.

The delegates from New-Hampshire attended in Congress and produced their credentials, which were read and approved, and are as follows:

Colony of New-Hampshire, in Congress, at Exeter, August 23, 1775.

Voted, That colonel Josiah Bartlet be appointed in the room and stead of John Sullivan, Esq; now engaged in the army, in conjunction with captain John Langdon, to represent this colony in the Congress of the United Colonies at Philadelphia, and that either of them, in the absence of the other, have full power to represent this colony at said Congress.

(Signed)

Matthew Thornton, president.

A true copy from the journal,

Attest,

E. Thomson, secretary.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the letters from general Washington, No. 4, 5, and 6, and one since received, but not numbered; and after debate,

Resolved, That the further consideration of them be deferred till Monday next.

Resolved, That this Congress will, on Wednesday next, take into consideration the state of the trade of America.

Adjourned till Monday next, nine o'clock.

MONDAY, September 18, 1775.

The committee appointed to settle the accounts of the riflemen, &c. laid before the Congress the account of Mr. West and Mr. Donaldson, amounting to 5303⁵²/₁₀₀ dollars, money by them advanced for the purchase of rifles and shirts, &c. for the privates of several companies, which is charged to the respective companies, and for blankets and ammunition supplied them, which is charged to the continent, which account the committee have examined and find just.

Ordered, That the committee pay the above account.

An express arriving with letters from general Schuyler, dated Ite-aux-Noix, September 8th, and the same being read,

Resolved, That the consideration of the letters from general Washington, be deferred till to-morrow.

Resolved, That the Congress will to-morrow take into consideration the letters from general Schuyler.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

TUESDAY, September 19, 1775.

The Congress took into consideration the letters from general Schuyler:

Ordered, That the secretary publish an authentic account of the intelligence received.

Resolved, That Mr. Deane, Mr. Chafe, Mr. Rutledge, and Mr. Jay, be a committee to prepare the draught of a letter to general Schuyler.

A motion being made in behalf of one col. John Fenton, who had been taken into custody by the convention of New-Hampshire, for being concerned in measures dangerous to the rights of Americans, and who, by order of the general, now remains, on his parole, a prisoner at Hartford; that he may be permitted to go to Great-Britain or Ireland.

Resolved, That general Washington be instructed to discharge the said col. John Fenton from custody, on his giving his parole of honour to proceed to New-York, and from thence to Great-Britain or Ireland, and not to take up arms against the good people of this continent.

Resolved, That the Congress will to-morrow take into consideration the letters from general Washington.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

WEDNESDAY, September 20, 1775.

Resolved, That the president write to the provincial convention of New-York, or the committee of safety, directing them immedi-

ately to equip and send forward the whole of the troops ordered to be raised, to join general Schuyler, with all possible expedition.

The committee appointed to prepare a letter to general Schuyler, brought in the same, which being debated, corrected and approved,

Ordered, That it be signed by the president and forwarded immediately.

Ordered, That a copy of general Schuyler's letter, and of the enclosed papers, and of the letters sent to general Schuyler, be immediately forwarded to general Washington.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the letters from general Washington.

Resolved, That Mr. Gridly have a commission as a colonel of the artillery.

That the appointment of a brigadier-general be deferred till to-morrow.

The subject of trade to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, September 21, 1775.

The committee of accounts laid before the Congress sundry accounts, viz.

An account of Timothy Matlack, employed as a clerk, amounting to 162 dollars.

An account of James Milligan, for sundry sail cloth, Russia sheeting, oznabrigs, &c. bought at the desire of Mr. Wilson, by order of the Congress, for the use of the continental army, amounting to 4842 $\frac{3}{8}$ dollars.

An account from the committee of Berks, advanced for sundry rifle companies, amounting to 5521 $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars, including a considerable sum advanced to colonel Thompson.

Ordered, That the two first be paid immediately, and that the last be referred back to the committee, for examination, and if found just, that they pay it.

Resolved, That the appointment of a brigadier-general be deferred.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the general's letters, and thereupon came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That general Washington be ordered to issue commissions to majors Box, Scammel, and Brewer, as brigade-majors.

That the pay of the judge-advocate in the army in the Massachusetts-Bay, for himself and his clerk, be fifty dollars per month, from the time of his appointment.

That a committee of five be appointed to take into consideration the memorial of the commissary-general, and report their opinion on the best means of supplying the army with provisions.

The ballots being brought in and examined, the following persons were elected, viz. Mr. Willing, Mr. Deane, Mr. P. Livingston, Mr. Cuthing, and Mr. Ward.

Resolved, That general Schuyler be empowered to nominate

and appoint a proper person to the office of brigade-major, in the army under his command, and to issue a commission accordingly.

Resolved, That the Congress will to-morrow take into consideration the state of the trade of North-America.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, September 22, 1775.

The committee of claims reported, that the account of Andrew McNair, door-keeper, for his service, amounting to 57.8 dollars, is reasonable, and ought to be paid.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

Sundry letters were laid before the Congress and read, viz.

Two from the committee of safety in New-York, with sundry papers enclosed.

One from Mr. Morris and Mr. Wilton, dated Pittsburgh, September 14, with sundry papers enclosed.

The committee of safety for Pennsylvania, having informed the Congress that they have taken into custody major Rogers, an officer in the king's service,

Resolved, That in case the committee find nothing against major Rogers, except that of his being a half-pay officer, he be discharged, on giving his parole not to take up arms against the inhabitants of America in the present controversy between Great-Britain and America.

The order of the day being read,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to take into consideration the state of the trade of America, and report their opinion.

That the committee consist of seven.

The ballots being taken and examined, the following persons were chosen, viz. Dr. Franklin, Mr. J. Rutledge, Mr. Jay, Mr. Randolph, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Deane, and Mr. Willing.

The committee of claims reported, that the account of William Shad, amounting to 48 dollars, for his services as messenger, last session, is reasonable, and ought to be paid.

Ordered, That the above account be paid.

Adjourned till to-morrow at nine o'clock.

SATURDAY, September 23, 1775.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to purchase a quantity of woollen goods for the use of the army, to the amount of five thousand pounds sterling.

That the said goods when bought, be placed in the hands of the quarter masters-general of the continental armies, and that the same be by them sold out to the private soldiers of said armies, at prime cost and charges, including a commission of five per centum to the said quarter masters-general for their trouble.

That the committee consist of five.

The ballot being taken and examined the following members

where chosen, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Alfop, Mr. Willing, Mr. Deane, and Mr. Langdon.

The committee of claims produced two receipts for money received of James Whitehead.

One signed by Richard Brown, a captain of one of the rifle companies from Maryland, for fifty pounds Pennsylvania currency, 133 $\frac{1}{5}$ dollars.

The other signed by Michael Cretflop, a captain of the other rifle company from Maryland, for one hundred pounds Pennsylvania currency, 266 $\frac{2}{3}$ dollars, received for the use of their respective companies, marching to Cambridge in the continental service.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid to James Whitehead, and charged to the respective companies.

Ordered, That the committee appointed to devise ways and means of supplying the army with medicines, do buy a parcel of drugs in the hands of Mr. Rapalje, which he offers at the prime cost.

Adjourned to nine o'clock on Monday next.

MONDAY, September 25, 1775.

The Congress took into consideration the letters from general Washington, No. 5, and 6, and two others not numbered.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare an answer.

The ballots being taken and examined, the following members were chosen, viz. Mr. Lynch, Mr. Lee, and Mr. Adams.

The committee of claims having represented to the Congress, that in consequence of the order of Congress, dated the first of August last, they have drawn out of the treasury the sum of 10,000 dollars, and that over and above they have drawn on the treasurers for the further sum of 1,926 $\frac{1}{4}$ dollars, to discharge sundry accounts, which the Congress ordered them to pay, they therefore move that the Congress will issue an order for the same to indemnify the treasurers.

The Congress taking this matter into consideration,

Resolved, That the committee's draught for the above sum be deemed valid, and allowed good in the treasurers accounts.

As accounts are brought in different from those committed to the foregoing committee to liquidate, and as it is proper that the accounts of the continent be put into a proper train of liquidation and settlement, in order for payment,

Resolved, That a committee of accounts or claims be now appointed to consist of one member from each of the United Colonies, to whom all accounts against the continent are to be referred, who are to examine and report upon the same, in order for payment, seven of them to be a quorum.

That the committee consist of the following members, viz. Mr. Langdon, Mr. Cushing, Mr. Ward, Mr. Deane, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Smith, Mr. Willing, Mr. Rodney, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Gadsden, and Mr. Zubly.

That the former committee deliver to the committee now appointed, all the books, accounts, and papers in their hands.

The delegates from Pennsylvania produced an account of the powder imported, and how it has been disposed of.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the letter from Messrs. Morris and Wilson, of 14th September, with the enclosed papers, and after some debate, the same was referred till to-morrow.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, September 26, 1775.

The order of the day was called for, but as the delegates for Virginia and Pennsylvania were not present, the consideration of the letters and papers from Messrs. Morris and Wilson was deferred till to-morrow.

The committee appointed to prepare an answer to general Washington's letters, reported the same, which was read, debated and agreed to.

Ordered, That the same being transcribed, be signed by the president, and be forwarded immediately.

The committee appointed to examine the journal of the Congress during the last sessions, in order for the press, reported a copy, which was in part read.

Ordered, That the remainder be read to-morrow.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, September 27, 1775.

The committee of claims applied to the Congress for advice how to charge sundry accounts, and the same being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That the expense of kettles, canteens, and spoons, supplied to the soldiers, be charged to the continent.

Resolved, That the sum of 160,000 dollars be paid to Connecticut, for supplies issued by that colony for the service of the United Colonies, to be accounted for by them.

The committee of claims reported, that in their opinion, the following accounts were reasonable, and ought to be paid.

A balance due to Robert Erwin, waggon-master, amounting to $887\frac{1}{5}$ of a dollar.

An account of George Frank, for riding express, amounting to 58 dollars.

An account of the committee of Northampton county, for money advanced for sundry rifle companies, amounting to $3182\frac{3}{5}$ of a dollar.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report of the committee appointed to examine the journals of the last sessions, and the same being read,

Ordered, That the journal, as now corrected, be published by the secretary, and that he superintend and correct the press.

A memorial of Samuel and Robert Purviance, was presented and read, setting forth, that they had chartered a vessel to carry a load of wheat, that the said vessel in going from Philadelphia to Chester-Town, Maryland, was lost in the late storm, by which they were prevented from exporting, before the 10th of September, the cargo which they had actually purchased; and therefore praying for liberty to export the cargo to a foreign port.

Ordered, To lie on the table.

Certain resolutions of the committee of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, respecting an application made to them by a captain, for leave to take a cargo of flour to Gloucester, in Massachusetts-Bay, were laid before the Congress and read.

Ordered, To lie on the table.

Adjourned to nine o'clock on Friday.

* * *

FRIDAY, September 29, 1775.

A letter from general Washington, dated the 21st of September, with sundry enclosed papers, being received by express, was laid before Congress and read.

The committee of claims reported, as their opinion, that the following accounts ought to be paid:

A balance due to John Powell, for riding express, amounting to 45 $\frac{1}{3}$ dollars.

An account of Matthias Slough, for money advanced to the rifle companies, amounting to 710 $\frac{5}{9}$ dollars.

An account of James Alexander for riding express, a balance due to him, amounting to 172 $\frac{2}{3}$ dollars.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

Resolved, That when any accounts are ordered to be paid, the orders be drawn on the treasurers and signed by the president.

Resolved, That a committee of three members be appointed to repair immediately to the camp at Cambridge, to confer with general Washington, and with the governor of Connecticut, lieutenant-governor of Rhode-Island, the council of Massachusetts, and the president of the convention of New-Hampshire, and such other persons as, to the said committee shall seem proper, touching the most effectual method of continuing, supporting, and regulating a continental army.

Resolved, That the appointment of said committee be deferred till to-morrow.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

* * *

SATURDAY, September 30, 1775.

The Congress proceeded to the election of a committee, and the ballots being examined, Mr. Lynch and Dr. Franklin were found to be duly elected by a majority of votes, and two other members having an equal number,

Resolved, That the Congress proceed to the election of another member for the committee, and that this rule be observed in all similar cases.

Accordingly the ballots being taken, the committee of examination reported, that Mr. Harrison is duly elected.

Resolved, That a committee of five members be appointed to draw up instructions for the above committee.

The ballots being taken, the following members were chosen, Mr. J. Rutledge, Mr. Lee, Mr. Johnson, Mr. R. Livingston, and Mr. S. Adams.

Resolved, That the president inform general Washington, by express, of the resolution of Congress, appointing a committee to wait on him, in order to consult with him, touching the most effectual method of continuing, supporting, and regulating a continental army.

That a letter to the same import be written to the governor of Connecticut, and that the president therein request him, in case he cannot himself attend, that he will appoint a person to represent that colony, and confer with the committee of the Congress on the subjects intrusted to them.

That like letters be written to the council of Massachusetts-Bay, and to the lieutenant-governor of Rhode-Island, and to the president of the convention of New-Hampshire.

The committee of claims reported, that in their opinion the following accounts ought to be paid, viz.

A certificate presented by William Hall, signed by captain Daniel Morgan, for necessaries furnished by George Kyfer to his company; another certificate presented by said W. Hall, and signed by said D. Morgan, for necessaries furnished his company by Mesheck Sexton, both the above sums amounting in the whole to 71 $\frac{2}{3}$ dollars, to be charged to said Morgan's company.

An account of necessaries furnished by John Jordan, of Lancaster, for captain Rofs and captain Smith's companies of riflemen, amounting to 432 $\frac{1}{4}$ dollars, to be charged to the continent.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

The committee appointed to consider the trade of America, brought in their report, which was read and referred to Monday next.

Adjourned to ten o'clock on Monday next.

MONDAY, October 2, 1775.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on trade, and after some debate,

Resolved, That this Congress will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the state of the trade of the thirteen United Colonies.

That the above report be referred to that committee.

The committee appointed to prepare instructions, reported a draught, which being read and debated by paragraphs, was agreed to.

Ordered, That a fair copy be made out and delivered to the committee appointed to wait on the general.

Resolved, That where the word month is used, the Congress means calendar month, by which the pay of the men in the service of the continent is to be regulated.

Resolved, That the pay of the second lieutenants in the marching regiments be the same as that of the first lieutenants.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

—•—
Tuesday, October 3, 1775.

The committee of claims reported, that, in their opinion, the following accounts ought to be paid :

The account of Frederick Bicking for 56 reams of paper for the continental currency, amounting to 388 $\frac{4}{5}$ dollars.

The account of Samuel Boughman, for the entertainment of captain Ross's company, amounting to 14.1 dollars.

Two accounts from the committee of Trenton for waggonage and fundry expreffes, amounting, together, to the sum of 103 $\frac{4}{5}$.

Two accounts delivered in by Casper Weitzal, for expenses for diet and provisions for captain Lowden's company of riflemen, amounting, together, to the sum of 44.6 dollars.

Two accounts delivered in by Miles and Wister, for necessaries furnished by John Harris, jun. and Elias Younkman, to captain Lowden's company of riflemen, amounting to 96 dollars, to be charged to the said company.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

The committee of claims further reported an account of Frederic Blankenberg and Leonard Stein, retained as hussars, on which they desired to know the determination of Congress.

Ordered, That the above-named Frederic Blankenberg and Leonard Stein be allowed to retain the cloaths made for them, and that over and above, they be paid 16 dollars each, for the time they were retained in service.

Resolved, That the commissary-general contract for such quantities of beef and pork as may be thought proper by the general, and have the same salted up in convenient houses near the camp, according to his scheme recommended by the general to the consideration of the Congress.

Resolved, That the sum of three hundred thousand dollars be immediately sent to the paymaster-general, for the use of the army in the Massachusetts-Bay.

Resolved, That the committee who are appointed to repair to the camp, be requested to take the charge of the above sum, or as much of it as they conveniently can.

Resolved, That the expenses of the committee be paid out of the continental treasury.

One of the delegates for Rhode-Island laid before the Congress a part of the instructions given them by their two houses of legislature, August 26, 1775.

Resolved, That the Congress will on Friday next, take the above into consideration.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to repair to the camp, do confer with Mr. Rittenhouse, and enquire of him whether he apprehends he can be of service to the continent as an engineer, and if he can, to engage him, and desire he would, with all convenient speed, repair to the camp.

Resolved, That this Congress, will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the state of the trade of these colonies.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, October 4, 1775.

The committee of claims reported, that, in their opinion, the following account ought to be paid:

An account of the committee of Bedford county, for necessities furnished to the company of riflemen raised therein, amounting to $755\frac{1}{2}$ dollars, of which sum $128\frac{2}{3}$ dollars ought to be charged to the continent, and the remaining sum of $626\frac{2}{3}$ dollars ought to be charged to captain Robert Cluggage's company, as so much of their pay advanced to them.

Ordered, That the above be paid.

Two members who undertook to receive and count the money, for which an order passed yesterday, to be sent to the pay master-general, reported that they found only 189,467 dollars ready in the treasury, which they received, and have packed up ready to be sent forward, for which they gave their own receipts, and now return the order drawn by the president.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the state of the trade of the thirteen United Colonies, and after some time spent therein, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the matter referred to them, but not having come to any resolution, desired leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into further consideration the state of the trade of the thirteen United Colonies.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, October 5, 1775.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into farther consideration the state of the trade of the thirteen United Colonies, and after some time spent therein, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported, that not having come to any resolution, they desired leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their further consideration the state of the trade of the thirteen United Colonies.

Sundry letters from London were laid before the Congress and read.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare a plan for intercepting two vessels, which are on their way to Canada, laden with arms and powder, and that the committee proceed on this business immediately.

The committee of claims reported, that, in their opinion, the following accounts ought to be paid:

An account of Mrs. Stille, of Trenton, for the expenses of captain Rofs, and others, to be charged to the said Rofs, until he makes it appear to be just and reasonable, that the same be charged to the continent, amounting to $32\frac{7}{8}$ dollars.

An account of Charles Axford, for provisions for captain Rofs's company, amounting to $8\frac{3}{8}$ dollars.

An account rendered by Charity Britton, for provisions for the same company, amounting to $9\frac{6}{8}$ dollars.

An account rendered by Joseph Clunn, for provisions for the same company, amounting to $7\frac{8}{8}$ dollars.

An account of William and Thomas Bradford, for printing, amounting to $178\frac{7}{8}$ dollars.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

Resolved, That Timothy Matlack, of this city, be employed as a store-keeper. and that the implements provided for the hussars, and the tents and linen, &c. purchased for the army, be put under his care.

The committee appointed to prepare a plan for intercepting the two vessels bound to Canada, brought in a report, which was taken into consideration; whereupon,

Resolved. That a letter be sent to general Washington, to inform him, that Congress having received certain intelligence of the sailing of two north country built brigs, of no force, from England, on the 11th of August last, loaded with arms, powder, and other stores, for Quebec, without convoy, which it being of importance to intercept, desire that he apply to the council of Massachusetts-Bay, for the two armed vessels in their service, and dispatch the same, with a sufficient number of people, stores, &c. particularly a number of oars, in order, if possible, to intercept the said two brigs and their cargoes, and secure the same for the use of the continent; also, any other transports laden with ammunition, clothing, or other stores, for the use of the ministerial army or navy in America, and secure them in the most convenient places for the purpose above-mentioned; that he give the commander or commanders such instructions as are necessary, as also proper encouragement to the marines and seamen, that shall be sent on this enterprize, which instructions are to be delivered to the commander or commanders sealed up, with orders not to open the same until out of sight of land, on account of secrecy.

That a letter be written to the said honourable council, to put the said vessels under the general's command and direction, and to furnish him instantly with every necessary in their power, at the expense of the continent.

That the general be directed to employ the said vessels and others, if he judge necessary, to effect the purposes aforesaid; and that he be informed that the Rhode-Island and Connecticut vessels of force will be sent directly to their assistance.

That a letter be wrote to governor Cooke, informing him of the above, desiring him to dispatch one or both the armed vessels of the colony of Rhode-Island on the same service, and that he use the precautions above mentioned.

That a letter be written to governor Trumbull, requesting of him the largest vessel in the service of the colony of Connecticut, to be sent on the enterprize aforesaid, acquainting him with the above particulars, and recommending the same precautions.

That the said ships and vessels of war be on the continental risque and pay, during their being so employed.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, October 6, 1775.

Two letters from general Schuyler, dated Ticonderoga, 25th and 28th September, with sundry papers enclosed, were read.

Resolved, That orders issue to the continental treasurers, to collect for continental bills, a quantity of silver and gold, not exceeding 53,200 dollars in value, for the use of the army in Canada.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several provincial assemblies or conventions, and councils or committees of safety, to arrest and secure every person in their respective colonies, whose going at large may, in their opinion, endanger the safety of the colony, or the liberties of America.

Ordered, That an authentic copy of the last resolve be transmitted by the delegates to proper persons in their respective colonies.

Resolved, That the committee appointed for the importation of powder be directed to export, agreeable to the continental association, as much provisions or other produce of these colonies, as they shall judge expedient for the purchase of arms and ammunition.

The Congress taking into consideration the letter from New-York, respecting the fortifications ordered to be erected on Hudson river,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to report to-morrow morning an answer to the convention of New-York.

The following members were chosen by ballot, viz. Mr. Morton, Mr. Deane, and Mr. R. Livingston.

The committee appointed to prepare a plan, &c. brought in a farther report, which was read:

Ordered, To lie on the table, for the perusal of the members.

The order of the day was renewed, and the consideration of the instructions given to the delegates of Rhode-Island, referred to this day, was put off to Monday 16th instant.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

SATURDAY, October 7, 1775.

Ordered, That the president draw on the treasurers, in favour of

Francis Lewis, John Alsop, Thomas Willing, Silas Deane, and John Langdon, Esqrs; for the sum of five thousand pounds sterling, to pay for the goods they were ordered to purchase for the use of the continental army.

The committee appointed to take into consideration the letter from the convention of New-York, brought in their report, which being read and debated, was agreed to, as follows:

That the provincial convention of New-York be directed immediately to render Hudon's river defensible; that in doing this they be particularly attentive to form such works as may be finished before the winter sets in. As it is very doubtful whether any stone work can be properly made at this advanced season, it is submitted to the judgment of the said convention, whether it could not be more cheaply and expeditiously done by works of wood or fascines. If they should think otherwise, that they be directed to go on with the work in the way which they think best, since it is the opinion of the Congress that the work should by no means be neglected.

But if the work be already begun on the plan sent us, that they render such parts as can be first finished defensible, so that the labour be not thrown away, if an attack should be made before the whole can be finished.

That the convention be directed to enquire whether there are not some other places where small batteries might be erected, so as to annoy the enemy on their passage, particularly, a few heavy cannon at or near Moore's house, and at a point on the west shore, a little above Verplank's point.

That it be recommended to said convention, to establish, at proper distances, posts to be ready to give intelligence to the army, in case of any invasion, or by signals to give alarms in case of danger, and that they confer with the assembly of Pennsylvania and convention of New-Jersey, on the speediest manner of conveying intelligence in such cases, and receiving assistance when necessary.

That the convention be farther directed to take the most effectual method to obstruct the navigation of the said river, if, upon examination, they find it practicable.

Resolved, That orders be sent to general Wooster, in case he has no orders to the contrary from general Schuyler, that he immediately return to the batteries erecting in the highlands, and there leave as many of his troops, as the conditions of the service shall think necessary for combating them, and that he repair with the remainder to New-York.

A member from Pennsylvania laid before the Congress a resolution passed in the house of assembly, in these words.

"In Assembly, September 30, 1775.

The house taking into consideration the several letters sent down yesterday by the governor, acquainting him with the intrusion of a number of people into this province, under a pretended title of the colony of Connecticut, to the great annoyance of the good people of this province:

Resolved, That the delegates for this province be specially directed to lay the same before the Congress, with the mischievous tendency the pursuing such measures will have, and procure the aid of that assembly to quiet the minds of the good people of this province, and prevent further intrusion or extension of settlements under the said claim, until the matter shall be determined by the king and council, to whom both sides have submitted the dispute.

Extract from the journals,

Charles Moore, Clerk of Assembly."

Resolved, That the same be referred to the delegates for Connecticut and Pennsylvania, who are desired to report thereon on Monday next.

Resolved, That the letter from Messrs. Morris and Wilson of the 14th of September, be taken into consideration on Monday next.

Adjourned to nine o'clock on Monday.

MONDAY, October 9, 1775.

A letter from Joseph Trumbull, commissary-general, dated September 23, 1775, was read, desiring that £. 500 lawful money, 1666 $\frac{2}{3}$ dollars be paid to Mr. Tracy, for money by him advanced to colonel Arnold, for the use of the continent, and that the same be charged to his account.

Ordered, That the president draw on the treasurers for the above sum in favour of Mr. Tracy, and that the same be charged as above.

A letter from general Schuyler, dated the 19th of September, with one enclosed from general Montgomery, and sundry other papers, were read.

Resolved, That a committee of five members be appointed to take the same into consideration, and report an answer.

The following members chosen, viz. Mr. J. Adams, Mr. J. Rutledge, Mr. Chase, Mr. R. Livingston, and Mr. Deane.

The delegates of Pennsylvania and Connecticut, informing the Congress, that they were not yet ready to make a report on the matters referred to them,

Ordered, That they prepare and bring in their report on Wednesday next.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention of New-Jersey, that they immediately raise, at the expense of the continent, two battalions, consisting of eight companies each, and each company of sixty-eight privates, officered with one captain, one lieutenant, one ensign, four serjeants, and four corporals.

That the privates be enlisted for one year, at the rate of five dollars per calendar month, liable to be discharged at any time, on allowing them one month's pay extraordinary.

That each of the privates be allowed, instead of a bounty, one felt hat, a pair of yarn stockings, and a pair of shoes; the men to find their own arms.

That the pay of the officers, for the present, be the same as that of the officers in the present continental army, and in case the pay

of the officers in the army is augmented, the pay of the officers in these battalions shall, in like manner, be augmented from the time of their engaging in the service.

The order of the day being renewed,
Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, October 10, 1775.

The committee of claims reported the following accounts reasonable, and which ought to be paid, viz.

The account of Du Simitiere, for translating the address of the United Colonies, to the inhabitants of Quebec, amounting to eight dollars.

William Govett's account of the expenses of a party of twenty-seven men, escorting powder to Trenton, amounting to 67.2 dollars.

David Rittenhouse's for thirty-six cuts for continental money, amounting to 48 dollars.

John Thornton's account of provisions and ferriage for part of captain Rofs's company, amounting to 10 dollars.

Christopher Ludwig's account for sundry expenses in forwarding powder to Ticonderoga, amounting to 41.2 dollars.

Ordered, That the said accounts be paid.

The committee appointed to prepare an answer to general Schuyler's letters, reported a draught, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

A motion being made relative to the appointment of officers in the continental army, and the same being largely debated, the determination thereon was deferred till to-morrow.

The order of the day was renewed.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, October 11, 1775.

A list of the matters referred to this day being read,

The delegates of Connecticut and Pennsylvania were called on to report, on the matter referred to them, but not being yet ready,

Ordered, That they meet this afternoon, and prepare reports to be laid before Congress to-morrow.

The committee of claims reported that the following accounts ought to be paid, viz.

The account of the committee of Elizabeth-Town, for carriage, expresses, and for provisions to capt. Rofs's company, amounting to 98.3 dollars, of which $3\frac{2}{3}$ dollars to be charged to capt. Lusk.

James Leslie's account of necessaries furnished to captain Rofs's company, amounting to 14.8 dollars.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the motion made yesterday, respecting the appointment of officers, and after debate, the same was postponed.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to report what subsistence ought to be allowed to the officers and soldiers in the con-

tinental service, when on their march, and in quarters, before they join the army.

The members chosen, Mr. Kinsey, Mr. Deane, and Mr. Langdon.

The Congress took into consideration the letter to general Schuyler, which being debated by paragraphs, was agreed to.

Ordered, That the same be transcribed and forwarded.

The committee appointed on the subsistence, &c. brought in their report, which being read, was ordered to lie on the table to be taken up to-morrow.

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, October 12, 1775.

The Congress taking into consideration the report of the committee respecting subsistence for the foldiers, &c.

Resolved, That each captain and other commissioned officer, while in the recruiting service of this continent, or on their march to join the army, shall be allowed two dollars and two thirds of a dollar per week for their subsistence, and that the men who enlist shall each of them, whilst in quarters, be allowed one dollar per week, and when on their march to join the army, one dollar and one third of a dollar for the same purpose.

Resolved, That the president transmit to the convention of New-Jersey, blank commissions, to be filled up by the said convention, to the captains and subaltern officers in the two battalions to be raised in that colony: and that the appointment of the field officers be for the present suspended, until the Congress come to a determination on that matter.

John Penn, Esq: one of the delegates for North-Carolina, appeared in Congress, and produced his credentials, which being read, were approved, and are as follows:

North-Carolina, Hillsborough. In Congress, 8th Sept. 1775.

“ Mr. Caswell informed the Congress, that as they had done him the honour to appoint him treasurer of the southern district of this province, and one of the signers of the public bills of credit, his attending those duties would render it entirely out of his power to attend the continental Congress, as one of the delegates of this province. he therefore requested this Congress would be pleased to appoint some other gentleman in his stead. Whereupon, it is resolved, that John Penn, Esq; be, and he is hereby appointed a delegate in behalf of this province, in conjunction with William Hooper, and Joseph Hewes, Esqrs; and that he be invested with the same power, and entitled to the like allowance, that the said Richard Caswell would have been vested with, and entitled to, under a former resolution of this Congress.

By order, signed,

Samuel Johnson, President.

Andrew Knox, Secretary.

The committee of claims reported their opinion, that the following accounts ought to be paid :

Two accounts of Peter Cooper, one for several articles furnished capt. Cressop's company in Lancaster, amounting to $2\frac{1}{2}$ dollars, to be charged to said company. The other for thirty-four pair of boots, made by him for the hussar company, amounting to $113\frac{1}{3}$ dollars.

Francis Wade's account of expenses for himself and a party of eighteen men escorting governor Skene and Mr. Lundy to New-York, amounting to $445\frac{5}{8}$ dollars.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the assembly or committee of safety of Pennsylvania, to raise one battalion on the same terms as those ordered to be raised in New-Jersey, and to be officered in like manner.

Resolved, That the men to be enlisted, be furnished at the continental expense, with a hunting-shirt, not exceeding in value $1\frac{1}{3}$ dollar, and a blanket, if to be procured, but not to be made part of the terms of enlistment.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the state of the trade of the thirteen United Colonies, and after some time spent therein, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the matter referred to them, but not having come to a conclusion, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their further consideration the state of the trade of the thirteen United Colonies.

The other matters, referred to this day, being postponed, the Congress adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, October 13, 1775.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration the trade of the thirteen United Colonies, and after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the matter referred to them, but not having come to a conclusion, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Whereupon the order was renewed.

A letter from general Washington, dated 5th of October, with sundry papers enclosed, was read.

The Congress, taking into consideration the report of the committee, appointed to prepare a plan, &c. after some debate,

Resolved, That a swift-sailing vessel, to carry ten carriage guns, and a proportionable number of swivels, with eighty men, be fitted, with all possible dispatch, for a cruize of three months, and that the commander be instructed to cruize eastward, for intercepting such transports as may be laden with warlike stores and other supplies

for our enemies, and for such other purposes as the Congress shall direct.

That a committee of three be appointed to prepare an estimate of the expense, and lay the same before the Congress, and to contract with proper persons to fit out the vessel.

Resolved, That another vessel be fitted out for the same purposes, and that the said committee report their opinion of a proper vessel, and also an estimate of the expense.

The following members were chosen to compose the committee: Mr. Deane, Mr. Langdon, and Mr. Gadsden.

Resolved, That the farther consideration of the report be referred to Monday next.

The Congress, taking into consideration the memorial of sundry merchants of New-York and Philadelphia, respecting a quantity of tea on hand, which were referred by the Congress at their last session to be taken up at their next:

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to take into consideration the said memorials, and enquire into the state of facts, and make report thereon to the Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. J. Rutledge, Mr. S. Adams, Mr. J. Adams, Mr. Ward, and Mr. Lee.

The several matters referred to this day, were postponed till tomorrow, to which time the Congress adjourned to meet at nine o'clock.

SATURDAY, October 14, 1775.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the letter from general Washington, and the papers enclosed.

Resolved, That a director-general and chief physician of the hospital in Massachusetts-Bay, be appointed in the room of Dr. Church, who is taken into custody for holding a correspondence with the enemy.

Resolved, That the Congress will, on Monday next, proceed to the election of a director-general and chief physician of the hospital, in the room of Dr. Church.

Resolved, That the further consideration of the general's letter be postponed till Monday next.

The delegates for Connecticut informed the Congress, that they had met some of the delegates for Pennsylvania, in order to take into consideration the matters referred to them, but not being able to come to any agreement with them, and as the dispute between the people of the two colonies on the waters of Susquehannah, had proceeded to bloodshed, and, in their apprehension, may be attended with very dangerous consequences, unless speedily prevented, they moved, that a committee be appointed out of the other colonies to take this matter into consideration, and report thereon to the Congress.

Resolved, That this be referred to Monday next.

Adjourned to nine o'clock on Monday.

MONDAY, October 16, 1775.

Two letters from the convention of New-Jersey, dated 13th and 14th instant, being read,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to take the same into consideration, and report an answer.

The members chosen, Mr. J. Rutledge, Mr. Dickinson, and Mr. W. Livingston.

A letter from general Schuyler, dated 5th instant, with sundry papers enclosed, being received and taken into consideration,

Resolved, That the sum of 200.000 dollars be sent to the deputy pay-master general for the northern army.

That the delegates of Pennsylvania do immediately count and send forward the above sum under a guard.

Resolved, That the ton of powder forwarded last week to New-York, be immediately sent to general Schuyler.

Resolved, That a committee of five members be appointed to consider farther ways and means of promoting the manufacture of saltpetre.

The following members chosen, Mr. Randolph, Mr. Wifner, Mr. Chase, Mr. J. Rutledge, and Mr. Morton.

Resolved, That it be earnestly recommended to all persons, who are possessed of the saltpetre lately removed from Turtle-Bay, on the island of New-York, forthwith to send the same to the president of the convention of New-York, to be manufactured into gun-powder, for the use of the continental army.

Ordered, That Mr. Langdon, Mr. Dyer, and Mr. J. Adams, enquire what quantity of powder has been sent to the northern army, and report by whom sent.

The order of the day being renewed, and the several matters referred to this day postponed.

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, October 17, 1775.

The Congress, taking into consideration the motion made last Saturday, by the delegates of Connecticut,

Resolved, That a committee of five members be appointed to take into consideration the disputes between the people of Connecticut and Pennsylvania, and report what in their opinion is proper to be done by Congress.

The members chosen are, Mr. J. Rutledge, Mr. Chase, Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Kinsey, and Mr. Hopkins.

The committee appointed to prepare an estimate, &c. brought in their report, which, after debate, was re-committed.

The committee of claims reported that there is due to Ephraim Martin, for provisions furnished to several rifle companies, 39.3 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

A letter from governor Cooke, dated 9th instant, was read.

The Congress proceeded to the election of a director-general and

chief physician of the hospital, in the room of Dr. Church, and the ballots being examined,

Dr. John Morgan, of Philadelphia, was elected.

Ordered, That the president write to the convention of New-York, and inform them, that it is the desire of the Congress, that the sulphur in that city be immediately removed to a place of safety.

The several matters referred to this day being postponed, and the order of the day renewed,

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, October 18, 1775.

The Committee on the memorials from sundry merchants in New-York and Philadelphia, brought in their report, which being read, after some debate,

Resolved, That the further consideration thereof be postponed.

The delegates from New-Hampshire laid before the Congress, a part of the instructions delivered to them by their colony, in these words :

“ We would have you immediately use your utmost endeavours to obtain the advice and direction of the Congress, with respect to a method for our administering justice, and regulating our civil police. We press you not to delay this matter, as, its being done speedily, will probably prevent the greatest confusion among us.”

Resolved, That the consideration of this matter be referred to Monday next.

Resolved, That a just and well authenticated account of the hostilities committed by the ministerial troops and navy in America since last March, be collected, with proper evidence of the truth of the facts related, the number and value of the buildings destroyed by them, also the number and value of the vessels inward and outward bound, which have been seized by them since that period, as near as the number and value can be ascertained, also the stock taken by them from different parts of the continent.

That a committee of three be appointed for this purpose.

The members chosen are, Mr. Deane, Mr. J. Adams, Mr. Wythe.

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, October 19, 1775.

The committee of claims reported, that, in their opinion, the following accounts ought to be paid :

The account of the committee of Lancaster, for sundries furnished the rifle companies, amounting to 2213.6 dollars.

The account of Richard Bache, Stephen Paschall, and Michael Hillegas, for superintending the printing of the continental bills of credit, amounting to 272 dollars.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

The committee appointed to take into consideration the method

proposed by the commissary-general for supplying the army with provisions, brought in their report, which was read.

It being represented to Congress, that captain Isaac Sears, of New-York, has, at the request of Mr. Trumbull, the commissary-general, forwarded to the camp at Cambridge, seven thousand barrels of flour, for which Mr. Trumbull has not been able to pay him, for want of money in the military chest.

Resolved, That 30,000 dollars be paid to captain Isaac Sears, on account of the above flour, he giving bond to the treasurers to account for the same with Mr. Trumbull, and that the same be charged to the account of Mr. Trumbull, commissary-general.

A petition from Mr. Sears, and Mr. Randal, was laid before the Congress, and read.

Resolved, That the same be referred to Thursday, the 2d of November next, then to be taken into consideration.

Resolved, That captain Macpherlon be requested immediately to repair to the camp at Cambridge, and confer with general Washington, on the subject contained in his letter to Congress.

Resolved, That the provincial convention of New-York be requested to send to this Congress, a copy of any order or proceeding of theirs, or of the mayor and corporation in consequence of governor Tryon's letter to the mayor, published in the New-York papers, under the 16th instant, also an attested copy of said letter.

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to nine o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, October 20, 1775.

The committee appointed to prepare a letter to the general, reported a draught, which was read and agreed to.

Resolved, That three hundred dollars be paid to captain John Macpherlon, to defray the expenses of his journey to the camp, he to be accountable.

The remainder of the day, and the day following, were spent in a committee of the whole, on the trade of the United Colonies. On which, not being ready to report, the order of the day was renewed, and the Congress adjourned to ten o'clock on Monday.

MONDAY, October 23, 1775.

The Congress being informed that yesterday the honorable Peyton Randolph, Esq; suddenly departed this life,

Resolved, That the Congress will attend his funeral as mourners, with a crape round their left arm, according to the association.

That the Congress thus continue in mourning for the space of one month.

That a committee of three be appointed to superintend the funeral.

The members chosen, Mr. Middleton, Mr. Hopkins, and Mr. Chafe.

That the committee wait on the reverend Mr. Duché, and request him to prepare a proper discourse to be delivered at the funeral.

The delegates for Delaware government having been re-appointed by their assembly, on the 21st inst. produced the credentials of their re-appointment, which were read and approved.

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow, and from thence, by adjournments, to ten o'clock on Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY, October 25, 1775.

Sundry letters from general Washington, governor Trumbull, and the convention of New-York, being received, were read.

The committee appointed to prepare an answer to the letters from the convention of New-Jersey, dated 13th and 14th instant, brought in a draught, and the same being read and debated, an answer was agreed to, and ordered to be forwarded.

The committee of claims reported that there is due,

To John Biddle, commissary of the rifle battalion, 4139.7 dollars.

To James Stewart, for provisions to riflemen, 15.7 ditto.

To Jacob Hoyer, for do. to capt. Ross's company, 18.3 ditto.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

The committee of safety, of Pennsylvania, informed the Congress, that they have taken into custody a captain Campbell, and a lieutenant Symes, together with a number of soldiers, who came from Boston in the Rebecca and Frances transport, which was cast away on Brigantine beach, and that, from general Gage's instructions to said Campbell and Symes (herewith transmitted to Congress), it appeared they were sent to raise recruits for general Gage's army, and that from sundry examinations taken and submitted to Congress, it appeared said Campbell has heretofore been employed in the like service, and has endeavoured to inveigle recruits by the offer of grants of forfeited lands.

The instructions being read,

Ordered, That they be published.

The examinations also being read,

Ordered, That a copy of them be forwarded to the convention of New-York, with a recommendation to them to seize a Mr. Grant, who, it is said, is employed in raising recruits for general Gage's army in that colony.

Resolved, That Mr. Hewes be added to the committee of claims.

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, October 26, 1775.

Ordered, That the resolution of the 15th of July last, for encouraging the importation of arms and ammunition, and the resolution of the 18th inst. for collecting an account of the hostilities committed by the ministerial troops and navy, be immediately published.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to take into consideration the letter from the convention of New-York, dated 20th instant, and report an answer.

The members chosen, Mr. Deane, Mr. S. Adams, and Mr. Dnane.

Information being given to Congress, that there has been lately discovered in the colony of Virginia, a mineral, containing a large quantity of saltpetre.

Ordered, That the delegates of Virginia send an express to enquire into the truth of the fact, and to bring a sample of the mineral.

Resolved, That a committee of five members be appointed to take into consideration the instructions given to the delegates of New-Hampshire, and report their opinion thereon.

The members chosen, Mr. J. Rutledge, Mr. J. Adams, Mr. Ward, Mr. Lee, and Mr. Sherman.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into further consideration the state of the trade of the United Colonies, and after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the matter referred to them, and have come to a resolution, which they desired him to report, and further to move for leave to sit again.

The report of the committee being read, was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several provincial assemblies, conventions, or councils of safety, of the United Colonies, to export to the foreign West-Indies, on account and risque of their respective colonies, as much provisions or other produce, except horned cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry, as they may deem necessary for the importation of arms, ammunition, sulphur, and saltpetre.

Ordered, That a copy of the above be transmitted by the delegates to their respective assemblies, conventions, or committees of safety.

Resolved, That this Congress will to-morrow again resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their further consideration, the state of the trade of the United Colonies.

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, October 27, 1775.

The committee appointed to prepare an answer to the convention of New-York, brought in a report which was read.

The remainder of the day being spent in a committee of the whole, and the order of the day renewed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

SATURDAY, October 28, 1775.

The committee of safety of Pennsylvania having transmitted to Congress some further examinations of the soldiers who came in the Rebecca and Frances transport, desired the direction of Congress with regard to the officers and soldiers. Whereupon,

Resolved, That captain Campbell and lieutenant Symes, and the men who came with them in the Rebecca and Frances transport, be confined in such gaols in this colony, as the committee of safety of said colony think proper, and that said captain Campbell and lieutenant Symes be allowed for their subsistence, $1\frac{1}{3}$ dollars each, a-week, and the men one dollar a-week each, to be paid out of the continental treasury.

The Congress taking into consideration the report of the committee on the New-York letters,

Resolved, That a company of matrosses, to consist of a captain, a captain-lieutenant, a first and second lieutenant, a lieutenant fire-worker, four serjeants, four corporals, eight bombardiers, sixty-eight matrosses, one drummer, and one fifer, be immediately raised in New-York for the defence of Hudson's river, and to occupy the fortifications now erecting in the highlands, and that it be recommended to the convention of said colony, immediately to raise said company, and to appoint the proper officers.

The committee of claims reported, that there is due on account of necessaries furnished to the hussar company, and for services therein, the following sums, viz.

To James and Drinker, per account, 192.8 dollars.

Thomas Clifford and sons, 64.4 dollars.

Usher and Henry, 29.2 dollars.

George Fromberger, 127.3 dollars.

William Ogden, 73.3 dollars.

William Kerlin, 64 dollars.

Samuel Garrigues, 11 dollars.

Andrew Fegener, 266.6 dollars.

Lewis Kuhn, 425.3 dollars.

Lewis Prah, to be paid by his order to Andrew Bonner, 226.6 dollars.

Sundries for smaller sums to be paid by T. Matlack, 550.6 dollars.

That there is due to Rachel Stille, for expenses of a guard at Trenton over the powder, 10.5 dollars.

To William Holmes, for goods furnished the rifle company raised in Cumberland, 85.6 dollars.

To Timothy Matlack, to pay for wood for the use of the Congress, 22 dollars.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

Resolved, That five of the committee of claims, of which the chairman is to be one, be empowered to act.

Resolved, That the inspectors of the press, deliver the proof-sheets and checks of the continental bills, to the continental treasurers, and that they deliver one of each to the delegates of every colony, to be deposited with the provincial treasurer appointed in each colony, and retain the rest in their hands.

Mr. Randolph, one of the saltpetre committee, being dead, and Mr. Morton, another, desiring to be excused, on account of his attendance in the house of assembly,

Resolved, That three new members be chosen for that committee. The members chosen, Mr. Paine, Mr. Humphreys, and Mr. Wythe. The order of the day being renewed,
Adjourned to ten o'clock on Monday.

Monday, October 30, 1775.

The committee appointed to prepare an estimate, and to fit out the vessels, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration.

Resolved, That the second vessel ordered to be fitted out on the 13th instant, be of such a size as to carry fourteen guns, and a proportionate number of swivels and men.

Resolved, That two more vessels be fitted out with all expedition; the one to carry not exceeding twenty guns, and the other not exceeding thirty-six guns, with a proportionable number of swivels and men, to be employed in such manner, for the protection and defence of the United Colonies, as the Congress shall direct.

Resolved, That four members be chosen and added to the former committee of three, and that these seven be a committee to carry into execution, with all possible expedition, as well the resolutions of Congress passed the 13th instant, as those passed this day, for fitting out armed vessels.

The members chosen, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Hewes, Mr. R. H. Lee, and Mr. J. Adams.

The convention of New-Jersey, having recommended sundry gentlemen for field officers to command the two battalions raising in that colony,

Resolved, That the same be referred till to-morrow.

A letter from W. Livingston, Esq; dated the 18th instant, was read, and referred till to-morrow.

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

Tuesday, October 31, 1775.

Sundry letters from general Schuyler of the 6th, 13th, 14th, and 19th instant, with sundry papers enclosed, were read.

The Congress then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into further consideration the trade of these colonies, and after some time spent therein, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported, that the committee, having taken into consideration the matter to them referred, have come to certain resolutions, which they desired him to report, but that not having come to a conclusion, they desired him to move for leave to sit again.

The report of the Committee being read,

Resolved, That the same be taken into consideration to-morrow morning.

Resolved, That the appointment of field officers for the battalions raising in New-Jersey, be postponed to Friday next.

A member from Pennsylvania laid before the Congress a resolve of the honourable assembly of that colony, in these words:

" In Assembly, October 28, 1775.

The house taking into their further consideration the resolve of Congress, for raising a battalion in this province, for general service, find it necessary that monies should be advanced by the several captains for that purpose.

Resolved, Therefore, that the Congress be requested to order a sufficient sum of money to be put into the hands of the committee of safety of this province, to be immediately applied in raising said battalion.

Extract from the minutes,

Charles Moore, Clerk of Assembly."

Resolved, That the consideration thereof be referred to Friday next. The order of the day being renewed,
Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, November 1, 1775.

A letter from general Washington by express, with an account of the burning of Falmouth, was read.

Ordered, That a copy be forwarded by the delegates to their respective assemblies, conventions, and committees of safety.

A letter from the committee of conference, with the minutes of their proceedings, was read,

Ordered, To lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

The Congress, taking into consideration the report from the committee of the whole,

Resolved, That no produce of the United Colonies be exported, (except from colony to colony, under the direction of the committees of inspection and observation, and except from one part to another of the same colony) before the first day of March next, without the permission or order of this Congress: provided, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to vacate the resolutions of Congress for the importation of arms, ammunition, &c.

Resolved, That New-York, the three lower counties on Delaware, North-Carolina, and Georgia, ought not to avail themselves of the benefit allowed to them by the late restraining act, and therefore, that no person should apply at the custom-houses in those colonies for clearances or other documents, which other colonies are deprived of by said restraining act, for securing the navigation of vessels with cargoes from their ports; and that the president transmit to the assemblies or conventions of those colonies, copies of this resolution, with the thanks of this Congress, to those colonies respectively, for not having hitherto taken any advantage of the exemptions in the said act of parliament.

Resolved, That no rice be exported under the exception contained in the 4th article of the association, from any of the United Colonies to Great-Britain, Ireland, or the islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, or Mann, or any other European island, or settlement within the British dominions.

Resolved, That no live stock, (necessary sea-stores, at the discre-

tion of the committees, and horses excepted) be exported from these colonies, or water borne, except in rivers, bays, and sounds.

The further consideration of the report being postponed, and the order of the day renewed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, November 2, 1775.

The committee of claims reported that there is due,

To Daniel Smith, for expenses of guards attending governor Skene, major French and others, and the expenses of Mr. Lundy and major French, 133.3 dollars.

To John Davies, for provisions and carriage to three rifle companies, 1320.9 dollars.

To Simons and Henry, for fundries to rifle companies, 2313.6 dollars; of this 26.7 dollars to be charged to the continent, the remainder to several rifle companies, the money to be paid to Hugh and George Roberts, per order of said Simons and Henry.

To John Montgomery, 56 dollars, of which 2.4 to be charged to the continent.

To John Brewster, Zachariah Dubois, and Jon. Brooks, 61.1 dollars, to be paid per order to Henry Wisner, Esq;

To William Sickle, according to the prayer of his petition, 40 dollars.

To captain Dowdle, for drums, &c. for his company, 61.1 dollars.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

Resolved, That the committee, appointed to carry into execution the resolves of Congress, for fitting out four armed vessels, be authorized to draw on the continental treasurers, from time to time, for as much cash as shall be necessary for the above purpose, not exceeding the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, and that the said committee have power to agree with such officers and seamen, as are proper to man and command said vessels, and that the encouragement to such officers and seamen be one half of all ships of war made prize of by them, and one-third of all transport vessels, exclusive of wages.

The inhabitants of a district in Nova-Scotia, having chosen a committee of safety, and having, by their petition, applied to the Congress to be admitted into the association of the United Colonies, for the preservation of their rights and liberties,

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to take this matter into consideration, and report what steps, in their opinion, it may be proper to take, in consequence of this application, for the preservation of the liberties of America.

The members chosen, Mr. Deane, Mr. Jay, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Langdon, and Mr. J. Adams.

Resolved, That the delegates have liberty to transmit to their respective committees of safety, a copy of the resolution passed yesterday.

A memorial from the committee of safety, of Pennsylvania, respecting lieutenant Symes, was read:

Ordered, To lie on the table.

A letter from Mr. Bedford, deputy muster master-general, with fundry muster rolls being received, were read.

The committee appointed to take into consideration the instruction to the delegates of New-Hampshire, brought in their report, which was read,

Ordered, To lie on the table.

A petition from John Raigs, of Bermudas, was read,

Ordered To lie on the table.

The Congress, taking into consideration the letters from general Schuyler, general Montgomery, and W. Livingston, Esq;

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to repair to the northward, to confer with general Schuyler, and to pursue such instructions as may be given them in charge by the Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. Langdon, Mr. Paine, and Mr. Dyer.

That a committee of five be appointed to prepare instructions for the foregoing committee.

The members chosen, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Jay, Mr. Lee, Mr. Deane, and Mr. J. Adams.

Resolved, That 3000 felt hats, 3000 worsted caps, 3000 pair of buckskin breeches, 3000 pair of shoes, 3000 pair of yarn stockings, and 3000 waistcoats, suitable for the season, be immediately purchased and sent to the army, under the command of general Schuyler, to be sold to the soldiers at prime cost, including charges of carriage, and five per cent. to the deputy quarter master-general, by whom the said goods are to be sold.

Resolved, That these goods be sold to those soldiers only, who will re-enlist in the continental army, and to the new recruits.

Resolved, That as much duffels or kersey, as will make three hundred watch coats, be purchased, and sent to general Schuyler, with needles and thread, to be made into watch coats, and that these be charged to the continent, and kept for the use of the out centres.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to purchase the foregoing articles.

The members chosen, Mr. Alfop, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Sherman,

Ordered, That the committee apply to the committee of inspection of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, for their assistance in purchasing the above articles.

The committee appointed to repair to the camp at Cambridge, being returned, made a farther report of their proceedings, whereupon,

Resolved, That Saturday next be assigned for taking into consideration the report of the committee, and the state of the army at Cambridge.

Resolved, That the petition of Mr. Sears, and Mr. Randall, which was referred to this day, be postponed to Monday next.

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, November 3, 1775.

The Congress, taking into consideration the report of the committee on the New-Hampshire instructions,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the provincial convention of New-Hampshire, to call a full and free representation of the people, and that the representatives, if they think it necessary, establish such a form of government, as, in their judgment, will best produce the happiness of the people, and most effectually secure peace and good order in the province, during the continuance of the present dispute between Great-Britain and the colonies.

The Congress then, taking into consideration the state of South-Carolina, and sundry papers relative thereto, being read and considered,

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to take the same into consideration, and report what, in their opinion, is necessary to be done.

The members chosen, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Bullock, Mr. Hooper, Mr. Chase, and Mr. S. Adams.

The committee of claims reported, that there is due to William Holiday, for goods and provisions furnished by several persons to the rifle companies of Virginia, the sum of £.246 : 12 : 3 Virginia currency, 122 dollars ; of which there ought to be charged to capt. Morgan, the sum of £.169 : 1 : 7½, and to capt. Stevenson, the sum of £.13 : 16 : 11, and the remainder to the continent.

To Andrew Bonner, for goods furnished to capt. Cressop's company, by David Mitchell, the sum of £.67 : 4 : 6, and for provisions to capt. Stevenson's company, the sum of £.3 : 2 : 6, the last, mentioned sum to be charged to the continent, both, amounting to 187.6 dollars.

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

The Congress, taking into consideration the recommendation from the convention of New-Jersey,

Resolved, That the same be referred to Monday next.

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

SATURDAY, November 4, 1775.

A letter from gen. Schuyler, with sundry enclosed papers, containing an account of the taking of fort Chambly, being received and read,

Resolved, That the same be referred to the committee appointed to prepare instructions.

Ordered, That gen. Montgomery's letter, and the articles of capitulation, be published by the secretary.

The committee appointed on the differences between the people of Pennsylvania and Connecticut, brought in their report, which being read,

Resolved, That the same be referred to Monday next.

On motion made, the Congress came to the following resolution :

The Congress, considering that the most perfect union between

all the colonies, is essentially necessary for the preservation of the just rights of North-America, and being apprehensive that there is great danger of hostilities being commenced, at or near Wyoming, between the inhabitants of the colony of Pennsylvania, and those of Connecticut,

Resolved, That the assemblies of the said colonies be requested to take the most speedy and effectual steps to prevent such hostilities.

Ordered, That Mr. M'Kean and Mr. Deane, wait upon the honourable house of assembly, of Pennsylvania, now sitting, with a copy of the above resolution.

Ordered, That a copy of the said resolution be transmitted by express to the magistrates, and people of Pennsylvania and Connecticut, on the waters of Susquehannah.

The Congress, taking into consideration the report of the committee of conference,

Resolved, That the new army, intended to lie before Boston, consist of 20,372 men, officers included.

Resolved, That the pay of the officers and privates (except that of the captains, lieutenants, and ensigns in the marching regiments) be the same as in the present army.

Resolved, That the pay of a captain, in the marching regiment, be, $26\frac{2}{3}$ dollars per calendar month.

That the pay of a lieutenant in ditto, be 18 dollars per ditto.

The pay of an ensign in ditto, be $13\frac{1}{3}$ dollars per ditto.

Resolved, That each regiment consist of 728 men, officers included; that it be divided into eight companies, each company to consist of one captain, two lieutenants, one ensign, four serjeants, four corporals, two drums or fifes, and 76 privates.

Resolved, That a ration consist of the following kind and quantity of provisions:

1lb. beef, or $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. pork, or 1 lb. salt fish, per day.

1lb. bread or flour per day.

3 pints of pease or beans per week, or vegetables equivalent, at one dollar per bushel for pease or beans.

1 pint milk per man, or at the rate of $\frac{1}{7\frac{1}{2}}$ of a dollar.

1 half pint of rice, or 1 pint of Indian meal per man per week.

1 quart of spruce beer or cyder per man per day, or nine gallons of molasses per company of 100 men per week.

3lb. candles to 100 men per week for guards.

24lb. soft, or 8lb. hard soap for 100 men per week.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several assemblies or conventions of the colonies respectively, to set and keep their gunsmiths at work, to manufacture good firelocks, with bayonets; each firelock to be made with a good bridle lock, three-quarters of an inch bore, and of good substance at the breech, the barrel to be 3 feet 8 inches in length, the bayonet to be 18 inches in the blade, with a steel ramrod, the upper loop thereof to be trumpet-mouthed; that the price to be given be fixed by the assembly or convention, or committee of safety of each colony, and that until a sufficient

quantity of goods, arms can be manufactured, they import as many as are wanted, by all the means in their power.

Resolved, That the good arms of such soldiers as leave the service, be retained for the use of the new army, on a valuation made of them.

Resolved, That cloathing be provided for the new army by the continent, and paid for, by stoppages out of the soldiers' wages, at $1\frac{2}{3}$ dollars per month; that as much as possible of the cloth for this purpose be dyed brown, and the distinctions of the regiments made in the facings.

That a man who brings a good new blanket into the camp, be allowed two dollars therefor, and take it away at the end of the campaign.

Resolved, That in order to supply the army with provisions, the commissary-general be directed to cause cattle and hogs to be driven, at proper seasons, to the camp, there to be slaughtered and cured, and as to the articles of bread and flour, that he proceed in the way that he has done for some time past.

Resolved, That such officers as have served in the present army to approbation, and are willing to stay, be preferred, and if there are more of these than are necessary for the new army, that the general distinguish such as he deems best qualified.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several legislatures of New-England to empower the general to impress carriages, vessels, horses, and other things necessary, at a reasonable rate, for the transportation or march of the army, or any part of it, or on any other emergency, and that this power may be deputed in writing, under the hand of the general to the quarter master-general, or to any inferior officer, who are to be accountable for any abuse thereof.

Resolved, That the general be directed to propose to the officers now serving in the present army, that they signify in writing, as soon as possible, which of them will continue to serve and defend their country, and which of them will retire, and that such officers as propose to continue in the service, and are approved by the general, proceed to enlist their men into the continental service, upon the same pay and allowance of provisions as is now given, their service to continue to the last day of December, 1776, subject to be discharged at any time by the continental Congress.

Resolved, That if, upon trial, the number of men before resolved on cannot be raised out of the present army, then the officers appointed for the new army, recruit their several regiments and companies to their full complement; and, in case the necessity of the service requires it, that the general be empowered to call forth the minute-men or militia of Massachusetts-Bay, or the neighbouring colonies, according to the nature and exigence of the service.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the several legislatures, assemblies, or conventions of the colonies, to enact a law or pass an ordinance, inflicting the following punishments upon such as shall be deserters, knowing them to be such, viz. a fine upon all such offenders, not less than thirty, nor more than fifty dollars; and in case of

inability to pay the fine, to be punished with whipping, not exceeding thirty-nine lashes for each offence: also, that they empower the commander in chief, or the officer commanding a detachment or any out-post, to administer an oath, and swear any person or persons to the truth of any information or intelligence, or any other matter relative to the public service.

Resolved, That any person who shall apprehend a deserter, and bring him to the regiment to which he belongs, upon certificate thereof by the colonel or commanding officer of such regiment, shall be entitled to receive five dollars and all reasonable expenses from the paymaster-general or deputy-paymaster, which is to be deducted from the pay of such soldier.

Resolved, That the farther consideration of the report be referred to Monday next.

The committee appointed to take into consideration the state of South-Carolina, brought in their report, which being read,

Resolved, That for the defence of South-Carolina, there be kept up in that colony, at the continental expense, three battalions of foot, each battalion to consist of the same number of men and officers, and be upon the same pay, and under the same regulations, as the continental army.

Resolved, That for the defence of the colony of Georgia, there be one battalion kept up there at the continental expense, to be composed as the battalions of South-Carolina.

Resolved, That the said troops be enlisted to the 31st day of December, 1776, subject, however, to be discharged sooner if the continental Congress shall think proper.

Resolved, That the president sign blank commissions, and that the conventions, or, in their recess, the councils of safety for South-Carolina and Georgia respectively, fill them up with the names of such officers as they may think proper, and return a list thereof to the Congress.

Resolved, That in case of a vacancy occasioned by the death or removal of a colonel or inferior officer, the said conventions or, in their recess, the said councils of safety, appoint another person to fill up such vacancy, until a commission shall issue from the Congress, and that they return to the Congress a list of the names of the person or persons so appointed.

Resolved, That the officers on the continental establishment shall, when acting in conjunction with officers of equal rank on the provincial establishment, take command of the latter, and also of the militia; and the officers of the troops on the provincial establishment shall, when acting in conjunction with officers of the militia, take command and precedence of the latter of equal rank, notwithstanding prior dates of commissions.

Resolved, That if the convention, or, in their recess, the council of safety of South-Carolina, shall think it expedient for the security of that colony, to seize or destroy, and shall seize or destroy, any ship or vessel of war, this Congress will approve of such proceeding.

Resolved, That the town of Charlestown ought to be defended

against any attempts that may be made to take possession thereof by the enemies of America, and that the convention or council of safety of the colony of South-Carolina, ought to pursue such measures, as to them shall seem most efficacious for that purpose, and that they proceed immediately to erect such fortifications and batteries in or near Charlestown, as will best conduce to promote its security, the expense to be paid by the said colony.

Resolved, That if the convention of South-Carolina shall find it necessary to establish a form of government in that colony, it be recommended to that convention to call a full and free representation of the people, and that the said representatives, if they think it necessary, shall establish such a form of government, as, in their judgment, will produce the happiness of the people, and most effectually secure peace and good order in the colony, during the continuance of the present dispute between Great-Britain and the colonies.

Adjourned to ten o'clock on Monday.

Monday, November 6, 1775.

The assembly of Pennsylvania having appointed new delegates, the said delegates produced their credentials, which were read and approved, and are as follows :

" In Assembly, November 3, 1775.

Resolved, That the honorable John Morton, speaker, John Dickinson, Robert Morris, Benjamin Franklin, Charles Humphreys, Edward Biddle, Thomas Willing, Andrew Allen, and James Wilson, be, and they are hereby, appointed to serve as representatives of this province in the continental Congress.

Extract from the minutes,

Charles Moore, Clerk of Assembly."

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to take into consideration the sundry letters lately received from the convention of New-York, and the state of that colony, and report what in their opinion is necessary to be done.

The members chosen, Mr. R. Livingston, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Allen, and Mr. Ward.

The Congress, resuming the consideration of the report of the committee returned from the camp, and having agreed to sundry articles therein contained, and come to sundry resolutions.

Ordered, That the secretary digest in order the resolutions of the Congress, as far as they have gone in the report, and lay the same before Congress to-morrow.

Resolved, That the further consideration of the report be referred till to-morrow.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to examine what money remains in the continental treasury unapplied, and to form an estimate of the public debts already incurred, and which will become due on the first day of June next.

That the committee consist of three.

The members chosen, Mr. Nelson, Mr. Deane, and Mr. Cushing.

The committee of claims reported that there is due,

To John Forbes, for goods and necessities delivered to several rifle companies, the sum of £35 : 11 : 10, equal to 94.9 dollars, of which sum captain Cluggage ought to be charged with £6 : 2 : 10, and captain Chambers with £4 : 10, the remainder to the continent, that this is to be paid, per order, to Blair M'Clenachan.

To Jane Allen, the sum of £47 : 0 : 7, and to Vendal Lands the sum of £2 : 0 : 0, both sums being 130.7 dollars, and that the same be paid per order to Henry Wisner, Esq; and be charged to the continent.

To Judah Harbow, £.7 : 12 : 4, and to capt. Jackson, £. 13 : 4 : 6, for necessities furnished several rifle companies, and that both sums be paid per order to Henry Wisner, Esq; and charged to the continent, being 52.1 dollars.

To Andrew Graff, for waggonage, the sum of £. 27 : 2 : 6, and to Christopher Crawford, for blankets, the sum of £. 6 : 15, both which sums to be paid per order to George Graff, and charged to the continent, being 90.3 dollars.

To Richard Backhouse, for waggonage, the sum of £. 51, being 136 dollars.

To Miles and Wister, by fundry certificates, £. 26 : 6 : 4, equal to 70.1 dollars, of which £. 13 : 10, be charged to captain Rice's company, and 3s. to captain Cressop's company, the remainder to the continent.

To Frederic Leinbach, by fundry certificates, £. 53 : 11 : 5, equal to 156.2 dollars, of which £. 4 : 13 : 6, to be charged to captain Price, £. 3 : 15 to captain Stevenson, £. 6 : 15 : 1 to commissary Biddle, until it appears to be otherwise accounted for, and the remainder to the continent, to be paid per order, to George Schloffer.

To John Murrow, for goods delivered to captain Stevenson, £. 71 : 18 : 10, to be paid, per order, to George Davis, and charged to said Stevenson, being 191.3 dollars.

To Robert Erwin, for waggonage, £. 169 : 9 : 3, equal to 451.9 dollars.

To Timothy Matlack, money by him paid to Joseph Brown, an express to Cambridge, £. 17 : 4 : 1, equal to 45.9 dollars.

To Jasper Stimes and Abraham Storm, for provisions and carriage, furnished by them to the rifle companies, £. 14 : 9 : 2, New-York currency, 36.1 dollars to be paid, per order, to John Alsop, Esq;

Ordered, That the above sums be paid.

Application being made in behalf of the colony of North-Carolina, for the sum of 3750 dollars, in part of the expense incurred for raising and equipping a thousand men for the support of the association and the safety of that colony, agreeable to the resolve of the Congress,

Ordered, That the same be paid to William Hooper, Joseph

Hewes, and John Penn, Esqrs; and charged to the colony of North-Carolina, by which the same is to be accounted for.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed, and the order of the day renewed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

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TUESDAY, November 7, 1775.

A letter from general Washington, No. 11, was read.

The secretary having digested in order the resolutions passed by Congress, produced the same, which being read, were approved as follows :

Resolved, That Dr. Church be close confined in some secure gaol in the colony of Connecticut, without the use of pen, ink, and paper, and that no person be allowed to converse with him, except in the presence and hearing of a magistrate of the town, or the sheriff of the county where he shall be confined, and in the English language, until farther orders from this or a future Congress.

Resolved, That the following additions and alterations or amendments be made in the rules and regulations of the continental army :
[For these rules and regulations, see page 129, &c. in the notes.]

Resolved, That three new members be added to the committee for importing arms, ammunition, &c. and that any five of them be a quorum.

The members chosen, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Bartlett, and Mr. Bullock.

The Congress taking into consideration the recommendation for field officers of the New-Jersey battalions,

Resolved, That the Congress will proceed by ballot to the election of the said field officers.

The ballots being taken and examined,

Lord Sterling was elected colonel of the first of the two battalions.

William Wind, Esq; lieutenant-colonel of ditto.

William De Hart, Esq; major of ditto.

William Maxwell, Esq; colonel of the second of ditto.

Isaiah Shrieve, Esq; lieutenant-colonel of ditto.

David Rhea, Esq; major of ditto.

Mr. Dickinson delivered a verbal message from the assembly of Pennsylvania, respecting the resolve sent to them by Mr. M'Kean, and Mr. Deane, desiring to know on what evidence the Congress ground the apprehension therein expressed, of hostilities commencing at or near Wyoming, between the inhabitants of the colony of Pennsylvania and those of Connecticut.

Ordered, That the same be referred till to-morrow.

The committee appointed to take into consideration the letters from the convention of New-York, and the state of that colony, brought in their report :

Ordered, That the same be referred till to-morrow.

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, November 8, 1775.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the secret committee* appointed to contract for the importation of arms, ammunition, &c. be empowered to export to the foreign West-Indies, on account and risque of the continent, as much provision, or any other produce, (except horned cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry) as they may deem necessary for the importation of arms, ammunition, sulphur, and saltpetre.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with Mr. Kirkland.

The members chosen, Mr. Cushing, Mr. Wythe, and Mr. Ward. The committee of claims reported, that there is due,

To Alexander Klinger, for provisions furnished to captain Hendrick's company, £.9 : 10, and to Refine Mourer, for ferriage 9s2, the whole to be paid, per order, to Henry Christ, being 26.5 dollars.

To George Kungle, for provisions furnished to captain Rofs's company, £.4 : 16 : 10, = 75 dollars.

To Henry Valentine, for transcribing writings for the Congress, £.3 : 18, = 10.4 dollars.

To Samuel Bear, for provisions furnished to several companies, £.27 : 15 : 7, to be paid, per order, to Thomas Compton, = 74 dollars.

To fundries, per certificates and accounts forwarded by Lewis Ogden, for necessaries furnished captain Rofs's company, and for a guard over a powder waggon, £.42 : 0 : 2, New-York currency, to be paid, per order, to George Kennedy, being 105 dollars.

To Henry Dearing, for necessaries furnished to captain Rofs's company, £.6 : 17, to be paid, per order, to John Biddle, junior, being 18.3 dollars.

To John Jones, for ferriage and provisions, for captain Rofs's company, £.2, = 5.3 dollars.

* In Congress, September 18, 1775.

Resolved, That a secret committee be appointed to contract for the importation and delivery of any quantity of gun-powder, not exceeding five hundred tons.

That in case such a quantity of gun-powder cannot be procured, to contract for the importation of so much saltpetre, with a proportionable quantity of sulphur, as, with the powder procured, will make five hundred tons.

That the said committee be empowered to contract for the importation of forty brass field pieces, six pounders, for 10,000 stand of arms, and 20,000 good plain double bridle musket locks.

That the said committee be empowered to draw on the treasurers to answer the said contracts.

That the said committee consist of nine members, any five of whom to be a quorum.

The members chosen, Mr. Willing, Mr. Franklin, Mr. Livingston, Mr. Alsop, Mr. Deane, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Langdon, Mr. McKean, and Mr. Ward.

Mathias Slough, per certificates, for provisions furnished several rifle companies, £. 22 : 3 : 2, = 59.1 dollars.

To fundries per certificates, for provisions furnished captain Rolfs's company, £. 23 : 15 : 5, New-York currency, to be paid, per order, to being 59.4 dollars.

Ordered, That the above be paid.

The Congress's taking into consideration the report of the committee on the New-York letter, &c.

Resolved, That a commander with the rank of a colonel, be appointed to take the command of the fortifications or fortresses on Hudson's river, in the highlands.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention of New-York, to empower the said commander to call together and command two hundred men of the militia of Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster counties, and one company of artillery from the city of New-York, who shall be stationed in the highlands until relieved by the company of artillery, directed by this Congress to be raised in the city of New-York, and such other continental troops as may hereafter be directed to take possession of the same.

Resolved, That the militia men or militia, while on service, be maintained and paid at the same rate, as the rest of the continental forces.

Resolved, That a number of the militia of the counties of Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster, be formed into independant companies, under the direction of the commander of the said fortresses, and in case of alarm, be directed to repair to the several stations in the highlands, which, in order to prevent confusion, should be immediately assigned them.

Resolved, That the troops, which shall at any time hereafter be directed to garrison the fortresses in the highlands, be put under the direction of the commander of the fortresses, except when headed by a general officer.

Resolved, That the deputy commissary-general be directed to provide sufficient provision for one thousand men for one month, and keep that quantity in stock.

Resolved, That the powder sent from this place to general Schuyler, be remanded, if it can be any way spared, and left at the fortresses in the highlands.

Resolved, That the committee of safety of Pennsylvania, be requested to furnish the colony of New-York with 500 lb. of powder, and forward the same immediately to Debb's ferry; that the convention of New-York give order to receive it there, and send it as soon as possible to the fortresses in the highlands.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the convention of New-York, if they have not already sent forward a sufficient number of cannon for the defence of the fortresses erecting in the highlands, that they immediately send forward to those fortresses so many of the cannon at King's bridge of the best quality and largest bore, as they may think necessary for that purpose.

Resolved, That the bills of sale, for the vessels ordered to be purchased, be made to the continental treasurers, or those who shall succeed them in that office, in trust nevertheless for the use of the continent, or their representatives, in Congress met.

Resolved, That the appointment of a commander of the fortresses on Hudson's river be deferred till to-morrow.

Mr. Dyer having, on account of indisposition, desired to be excused from going to the northward, the Congress proceeded to the election of another in his stead, and Mr. R. Livingston was chosen.

The committee appointed to prepare a draught of instructions, reported the same, which being read, and debated by paragraphs, were agreed to as follows:

Instructions to R. R. Livingston, Robert Treat Paine, and J. Langdon, Esquires.

" GENTLEMEN,

" The Congress expect that you repair, with as much dispatch, as the necessary preparations for your journey will admit, to Ticonderoga, in order to consult with general Schuyler what number of forces will be necessary in Canada, and of the best and most efficacious method for procuring or continuing such forces in the northern department during the ensuing winter, of engaging the inhabitants of the colony of Canada to accede to the association of the United Colonies, and of protecting them for the future against their and our enemies.

" If, upon such a conference, it shall be judged necessary, you are authorized to direct Mr. Livingston, the deputy commissary-general, to furnish the necessary provisions for an army of three thousand men for six months.

" You are also authorized to offer two months pay as a bounty to such officers and soldiers as shall re-enlist, to be paid upon their taking the fortresses at St. John's and Montreal, and you are to make use of every argument, to induce them to re-enlist, or at least to stay until they can be relieved, and to assure them, that the Congress have taken care to supply them with proper cloathing.

" You are to direct the fortresses at Ticonderoga and Crown-Point, to be put into such a posture of defence, as the state of our affairs may require.

" You are to advise the general to purchase of such officers and soldiers, who have arms and are sick, their arms for the use of those who have none, or bad ones and are well.

" Ammunition it is hoped since the late capture will not be wanting, if it should, Congress will send the first that shall arrive.

" If there should be occasion of reinforcements, you are empowered, in concert with general Schuyler, to raise any number that can be procured in Canada, New-York, or any of the New-England governments, in order to possess themselves of Montreal and Quebec.

" The Congress desire you to exert your utmost endeavours to

induce the Canadians to accede to a union with these colonies, and that they form from their several parishes a provincial convention, and send delegates to this Congress. And as, in the present unsettled state of that country, a regular election can hardly be expected, the Congress will acquiesce in the choice of such parishes and districts, as are willing to join us.

“ You may, and are hereby empowered to assure them, that we shall hold their rights as dear as our own, and on their union with us, exert our utmost endeavours to obtain for them, and their posterity, the blessings of a free government, and that security to their persons and property, which is derived from the British constitution.

“ And you may, and are hereby empowered further to declare, that we hold sacred the rights of conscience, and shall never molest them in the free enjoyment of their religion.

“ In case general Schuyler has not yet raised the regiment recommended to him to be raised in Canada, or in case he cannot proceed to Canada, you are to use all the means in your power to perfect the raising of a regiment of Canadians, to join the continental forces, and you are, for that purpose, to take with you blank commissions, which, taking the advice of the general officers in that department, you are to fill up with the names of such persons, as have the most merit and best qualifications for the service.

“ Congress direct you to acquaint general Schuyler, that they approve of his appointment of captain Dimon, to be a brigade major, and have ordered him a commission accordingly.

“ The Congress moreover are desirous that you should take an accurate view of the state of our fortifications upon Hudson's river, and make a report of it as soon as it can conveniently be done.

“ If the circumstances of the army should be such, that a ton of powder may be spared, you are to direct that quantity to be sent to New-York, and all such cannon and military stores as shall not be wanted in Canada, or in the fortifications on the lakes, to be sent to Albany, there to remain until the Congress give farther directions concerning them; and for this purpose, you are herewith furnished with a list of the ordnance and military stores, which were at those places when taken.

“ You are to inform the general that the pay of some, of the officers is raised, and to take with you from the minutes, the additional establishment.

“ You are to direct all such officers and soldiers as shall re-enlist, to be paid all arrears that may be due to them, according to the rolls to be sent by governor Trumbull, who in the mean time will be requested by Congress to send the rolls to the general, ascertaining how long the men have been in service.

“ The disposition of the prisoners is approved of by the Congress, but the officers are not to be permitted to reside in or near any seaport.

“ You are authorized to assure major Brown and major Living-

ston, that the Congress have a just sense of their important services, and will take the first proper opportunity to reward them.

“ You are also to acquaint the general, that general Montgomery’s request, as to the pay of the company of artillery by him appointed, is complied with.

“ A committee will be appointed to procure as much hard money as will be necessary to be transmitted to the deputy pay-master-general in the northern army, to be used in Canada.”

Resolved, That the committee appointed to make an estimate, &c. be authorized to contract for the making proper paper for a future emission of paper bills of credit.

Resolved, That the president draw an order on the treasurers for the sum of 3000 dollars, in favour of the committee of safety of Pennsylvania, agreeable to the request of the honourable the assembly, towards the expence of the battalion ordered to be raised in said colony.

Resolved, That all letters to and from the delegates of the United Colonies, during the sessions of Congress, pass, and be carried free of postage, the members having engaged upon honour not to frank or enclose any letters but their own.

Ordered, That this be published.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers for the sum of 20000 dollars, in favour of Francis Lewis and Roger Sherman, Esqrs; to enable them to pay for the cloathing they were ordered to purchase.

The matters to this day referred, being postponed, and the order of the day renewed,

Adjourned to ten o’clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, November 9, 1775.

A letter from the agents respecting the delivery of the petition and the reception it met with, was read :

Ordered, That the secretary publish the substance of said letter.

Resolved, That the appointment of a commander of the fortresses on Hudson’s river be postponed to Wednesday next, and that captain John Hanson take and keep the command of the said fortresses and the troops there, until the Congress shall appoint a commander.

On application made by the delegates of Georgia,

Resolved, That the president draw an order on the treasurers in favour of the delegates of that colony, for the sum of 5000 dollars, towards the expence of the battalion ordered to be raised there, the said colony to account for the same.

The committee to whom was referred the petition from some inhabitants of Nova-Scotia, brought in their report, and the same being taken into consideration and debated, was postponed till to-morrow.

The order of the day renewed,

Adjourned to ten o’clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, November 10, 1775.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers for 1000 dollars, in favour of Mr. R. Livingston, Mr. Paine, and Mr. Langdon, the committee appointed to repair to the northward.

Resolved, That the goods bought for the northern army be sent by land to Dobb's ferry, and that the president write to the Convention of New-York, and desire them to have a vessel ready to take in the said goods, and transport them immediately to Albany.

Resolved, That the medicines purchased in this city for the army at Cambridge, be sent thither by land.

Resolved, That the president give written orders to Dr. Morgan, to call upon Mr. Sears, and desire him to deliver what medicines he has under his care, or can procure, that they may be forwarded to the camp at Cambridge, for the use of the army.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the state of the colony of Virginia, to consider whether any, and what provisions may be necessary for its defence, and to report the same to Congress.

That the committee consist of five.

The members chosen, M. S. Adams, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Ward, and Mr. Johnson.

Resolved, That all letters to and from the commander in chief of the continental army, or the chief commander in the army in the northern department, pass and be carried free of postage.

Resolved, That the commander of the New-Jersey battalions be directed to march six companies of said battalions, as soon as they are completed, to garrison the fort on Hudson's river, in the highlands, in the colony of New-York.

Resolved, That the president write to governor Cooke, and request him to send to the committee of safety of New-York, one ton of powder, for the defence of that city and colony.

Resolved, That there be paid to John Wendall, the exprefs from Albany, who has been detained twelve days by order of Congress, the sum of 16 dollars, for the time he has been detained.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of the delegates of New-Jersey, for 5000 dollars, towards the expence of the battalions ordered to be raised in that colony.

Ordered, That the delegates of Pennsylvania call on the gentlemen appointed to sign the continental bills, and request them with all possible expedition to complete that business.

The committee appointed to consider further way and means of promoting the manufacture of saltpetre, brought in their report, which was read in these words :

It appears to your committee, that skilful persons sent to Virginia, and employed there in a public saltpetre work, under the inspection of gentlemen who will superintend it, may, with sufficient assistance, produce a considerable quantity of that article ; and that a further supply of it may be procured from the other colonies, if the assemblies, conventions, and councils of safety will

appoint proper persons in their respective colonies, whose business it shall be to employ and set to work such and so many of their countrymen, as they shall judge fit, to collect earth from which nitrous salt may be extracted, and to manufacture it into saltpetre.

The Congress taking into consideration the said report,

Resolved, That Richard Bland, Peter Poythres, John Bannister, John Buffin, Archibald Cary, Benjamin Watkins, John Tabb, Richard Adams, Richard Randolph, and Theodorick Bland, the younger, Esqrs; or any five or more of them, be desired and empowered to agree with the proprietors of the public ware-houses, and of other places impregnated with nitre, in the counties of Prince-George, Dinwiddie, Chesterfield, and Henrico; Carter Braxton, John Syme, Burwell Basset, Bartholomew Dandridge, William Aylett, George Brook, George Lyne, and George Webb, Esqrs; or any five or more of them, with such proprietors in the counties of Hanover, New-Kent, King William, and King and Queen; Edmund Pendleton, James Taylor, George Stubblefield, Mann Page, the younger, Joseph Jones, William Fitzhugh, of Sommerfet, and Fielding Lewis, Esqrs; or any four or more of them, with such proprietors in the counties of Caroline, Spotsylvania, and King George; and Charles Carter, of Stafford, Thomas Ludwell Lee, Henry Lee, Thomas Blackburn, Charles Broadwater, and George Mason, Esqrs; or any three or more of them, with such proprietors in the county of Stafford, Prince William, and Fairfax, in the colony of Virginia, to purchase for the use of the United Colonies, all the saltpetre which may within twelve calendar months be produced from the floors and yards of the warehouses and other places, under the management of such persons as the Congress shall appoint for that purpose, and to pay to the owners of the soil, if they will manufacture it at their own expense, after the rate of two fifths of a dollar for every pound weight, averdupois, of clean, pure, and neat saltpetre, delivered to the gentlemen above named, for the use of the United Colonies, and to hire labourers, and provide the necessary apparatus, to be employed under the direction of the said managers, in the soil of such persons as shall not chuse to adventure in the business themselves, paying to the owners, if they require satisfaction, what they shall be willing to take, so that it do not exceed one forty fifth part of a dollar for every pound weight, averdupois, of saltpetre of the like quality, in both which cases the Congress will make good the contracts, and will pay all such expenses as shall be incurred by the gentlemen desired to superintend the operation; on whose zeal, influence, and abilities, to procure, with all convenient expedition, a large quantity of this article, so necessary for the defence of their country, and thereby render it a very important service, and by their example and activity to forward and encourage this useful work, the Congress do rely with confidence.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the assemblies, conventions, and committees of safety, of the thirteen United Colonies,

to appoint certain persons within each of the said colonies, whose business it shall be to employ and set to work so many persons as they may think proper, both to work up such earth as is now fit for making saltpetre, and to collect together and place in beds or walls under sheds, all such earth and composition of materials as are suitable to produce saltpetre, after being duly exposed to the air, in order to encrease the produce of it, and that the delegates of the respective colonies be directed to send this resolution, together with the resolution of last sessions respecting saltpetre, to their respective colonies, and cause them to be printed and made public there.

Resolved, That two battalions of marines be raised, consisting of one colonel, two lieutenant-colonels; two majors, and other officers as usual in other regiments; that they consist of an equal number of privates with other battalions; that particular care be taken, that no persons be appointed to offices, or enlisted into said battalions, but such as are good seamen, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to serve to advantage by sea when required: that they be enlisted and commissioned to serve for and during the present war between Great-Britain and the colonies, unless dismissed by order of Congress; that they be distinguished by the names of the first and second battalions of American marines, and that they be considered as part of the number which the continental army before Boston is ordered to consist of.

Ordered, That a copy of the above be transmitted to the general.

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

SATURDAY, November 11, 1775.

Resolved, That it be recommended to such proprietors of tobacco ware-houses, and tobacco houses, in Virginia and Maryland, as cannot speedily have the earth of the floors of their houses worked for saltpetre, that they cause those floors to be soon dug up and left fine, loose, and light, at least six inches deep, suffering the tobacco stalks and trashy leaves to be spread thereon, and leaving the doors open, especially in dry weather, as often as convenience will permit, whereby the soil will be much the more impregnated with nitrous particles, the manufacture of saltpetre facilitated, and the quantity thereof greatly increased.

Two petitions, one from Charles Wharton, the other from James Longhead, each praying to be appointed commissary to the battalions raising in this colony, were read,

Ordered to lie on the table.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to contract with such person or persons as will undertake at the cheapest rate, to supply such continental troops as are or may be in the barracks at Philadelphia, during their stay there, with the rations allowed by this Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Allen.

Resolved, That the recruiting officers in Pennsylvania, find the

recruits they may enlist as soon as raised, to the barracks in Philadelphia.

A letter from Volkerck P. Douw, Esq; dated 6th instant, was read,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to take into consideration the foregoing letter, and the minutes of the treaty held with the Indians at Albany, by the Indian commissioners of the northern department, and report thereon.

That the committee consist of five.

The members chosen, Mr. Wythe, Mr. Franklin, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Duane, and Mr. Cushing.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to proceed to Ticonderoga and Canada, be directed to confer with the generals commanding in that department, on the propriety of sending the whole or any part of the army under their command, with proper artillery and ammunition to Quebec, in order to second colonel Arnold's expedition, or to renew the attempt, should his have failed, and to give directions accordingly.

Resolved, That the fortifications of Quebec, in case it comes into our hands, be repaired, and furnished with such provisions, arms, ammunition, and artillery, as may be necessary for its security.

Resolved, That in case any one of the foregoing committee be disabled or prevented from proceeding, the other two have full power to proceed and transact the business entrusted to them.

The committee appointed to confer with Mr. Kirkland, brought in their report, whereupon,

Resolved, That 113 dollars be paid to the rev. Samuel Kirkland, for his past services, out of the continental treasury.

Resolved, That for the propagation of the gospel amongst the Indians, and conciliating their affections to the United Colonies, and thereby preserving their friendship and neutrality, Mr. Kirkland be continued in his mission amongst them, and that for those important purposes, he be allowed and paid out of the continental treasury, for the support of himself and family the ensuing year, sixty-five pounds sterling, or 288 $\frac{2}{3}$ dollars, and that sixty pounds sterling, or 266 $\frac{2}{3}$ dollars be advanced to him, to be by him disposed of in such manner as may best promote the happiness of the Indians, and attach them to these colonies.

Resolved, That the farther consideration of the report be postponed until the committee to whom Mr. Douw's letter, and the minutes of the late treaty are referred, shall have made their report.

Resolved, That 3000 tin cartouch boxes be made and sent to the camp, or if tin sufficient to make them can be procured, that it be sent.

Ordered, That the delegates of Pennsylvania execute this.

Resolved, That the salutarie committee be empowered to enter into a contract with the Indians who offer to go to Virginia on this business.

Resolved, That 500,000 dollars be sent to the pay master-general, for the use of the army in Massachusetts-Bay.

That 50,000 dollars be sent to the convention of New-York, to be accounted for by said convention.

Ordered, That the delegates of Pennsylvania be a committee, to count and forward the said sums under a guard.

Resolved, That the guard do not exceed three or two of the light horse, and a servant.

Two petitions, one from Murray Sanfom and others, and the other from Jasper Griffing, were read,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to take into consideration the foregoing petitions, and report thereon to Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Lee, and Mr. Johnson.

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock on Monday.

MONDAY, November 13, 1775.

A letter from general Washington, with sundry papers enclosed, was read.

Ordered, That the rules and regulations of the army be republished, with the additions and alterations lately made.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare a declaration, in answer to sundry illegal ministerial proclamations that have lately appeared in America.

The members chosen, Mr. R. H. Lee, Mr. Wilton, and Mr. W. Livingston.

Resolved, That Thursday, the 23d instant, be assigned for electing a brigadier-general.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed, and the order of the day renewed, adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow, and from thence to ten o'clock on Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY, November 15, 1775.

An express having arrived with an account of the surrender of fort St. John's, the letters from general Schuyler and general Montgomery, were read.

Resolved, That an order for 542 dollars be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of captain Thomas Price, on account of his rifle company, he to be accountable for the same.

The committee to whom the petitions from Jasper Griffing, and Murray, Sanfom and company and others, were referred, brought in their report, which was read, and agreed to as follows:

Your committee on the memorial of Jasper Griffing, are of opinion, that the examination of the fact, set forth in that memorial, ought to be referred to the committee of observation, for Guilford, and that the same being sufficiently proved, the schooner Betsey, mentioned in said memorial, ought to be permitted to proceed on her voyage, with the cargo purchased and provided for

her before the 10th day of September last, the master and owner of the vessel previously making oath, that they will use their best and utmost endeavours, that the said cargo shall be landed in some foreign port.

On the memorial of Murray, Sanfom and company, Jacob Watson, and Frederick Rhinelander, of the city of New-York, your committee having examined as far as they could, into the conduct of the parties concerned, find no ground to suspect that the owners of the cargo intended it should be landed or disposed of in any other manner than set forth in the said memorial, but your committee think there is just ground to suspect, that William Barron, the master of the ship Peggy, would not be very solicitous to prevent the cargo, which might be useful to the ministerial army, from falling into the possession of the men of war, he having been before taken in the same ship, in Rhode-Island, with a cargo from Chesapeake-Bay, for Europe, nor can your committee approve the conduct of the owner of the ship who continued the captain afterwards.

Your committee are therefore of opinion, that another master ought to be appointed to the said ship, who shall be approved by the committee of Norwich, and that the time of her sailing, as well as her tract be appointed by that committee, and the master sworn to use his best endeavours to prevent the said ship falling into the possession of any man of war or cutter, and to pursue as far as he can, the orders of the said committee in navigating the said ship, on which terms your committee, are of opinion, the said ship ought to be permitted to proceed with her cargo.

A proposal from Nathaniel Sackett, for making a quantity of saltpetre, being received and read,

Ordered, That the same be referred to the saltpetre committee.

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, November 16, 1775.

Resolved, That two small swift sailing vessels be provided for packets, to be under the direction of Congress.

Ordered, That Mr. Morris be appointed to provide said vessels, and that he be directed to get one ready to sail as soon as possible, and the other in a month hence.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to devise ways and means of employing these vessels to the best advantage.

The members chosen, Mr. Lynch, Mr. R. Morris, and Dr. Franklin.

The assembly of Pennsylvania having by a resolution of their house, recommended three gentlemen for field officers to the battalion raising in said colony, the same together with applications from sundries, to be appointed adjutant and quarter-master to said battalion, were read.

Sundry papers from the general assembly of the colony of Massachusetts-Bay, being laid before Congress and read.

Resolved, That these be referred to a committee of seven.

The members chosen, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Sherman, Mr. W. Livingston, Mr. Ward, Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Hooper, and Mr. Harrison.

Resolved, That the committee appointed on the 11th instant, to contract for supplying the troops in the barracks in Philadelphia, be empowered to contract for supplying the same wherever sent, for twelve calendar months, provided they are so long continued in the continental service, to commence next Monday.

The committee of claims reported, that there is due to Henry Rankin, for provisions to captain Ross's company, 161.9 dollars.

To John Hider, for carrying powder to Trenton, 10.6 dollars.

This to be paid per order to Joseph Jewell.

To Francis Lee, for horse-hire for expresses, 20 dollars.

To John Little, for entertainment of sundry expresses, 16.8 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

The said committee also reported an account of major Coates and captain Copperthwaite, which being read,

Ordered, That the same lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

Resolved, That the delegates write to their colleagues, who are absent, and inform them that the Congress expect their immediate attendance.

Resolved, That for the future, no member absent himself from Congress without leave of Congress.

Resolved, That it be a rule of this Congress, that every member remain in his seat whilst any paper is reading or question putting.

The order of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, November 17, 1775.

A letter from general Wallington, enclosing a letter and journal of colonel Arnold, and sundry papers being received, the same were read, whereupon,

Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed, to take into consideration so much of the general's letter as relates to the disposal of such vessels and cargoes belonging to the enemy, as shall fall into the hands of, or be taken by the inhabitants of the United Colonies.

The members chosen, Mr. Wythe, Mr. E. Rutledge, Mr. J. Adams, Mr. W. Livingston, Dr. Franklin, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Johnson.

Resolved, That the prisoners taken at Crumby and St. John's, be sent to, and kept in the towns of Reading, Lancaster, and York, in the colony of Pennsylvania.

That the committee appointed the 11th instant, to contract for supplying the battalion, raised in Pennsylvania, be empowered to distribute the said prisoners in the towns aforesaid, and contract for their support or subsistence.

That the rations of the privates be the same as are allowed the privates in the continental army.

That orders issue to the officer who has the charge of conducting the prisoners, to march them by the nearest road to Reading, in the colony of Pennsylvania, and that the deputy commissary-general be directed to supply them with provisions for their march, agreeable to the rations supplied the continental army.

That the said commissary be directed, if the prisoners agree to it, to send the women, children and baggage by water to Amboy, from thence to be sent across to Bordentown, and from thence by water to Philadelphia, from which last place they will be sent to join the garrison in the towns allotted to them, this being judged the safest, cheapest, and most commodious way of conveying them.

Whereas it is become necessary to appoint a colonel of the regiment of artillery, in the room of colonel Gridley, on account of his advanced age,

Resolved, That this Congress will indemnify colonel Gridley for any loss of half-pay, which he may sustain in consequence of his having been in the service of the United Colonies.

The Congress then proceeded to the choice of a colonel of the regiment of artillery, and

Henry Knox, Esq; was unanimously elected.

Resolved, That the commissioned officers, taken in the forts of Chambly and St. John's, be put upon their parole of honour, that they will not go into or near any seaport town, nor farther than six miles distant from the respective places of their residence, without leave of the continental Congress, and that they will carry on no political correspondence whatever, on the subject of the dispute between Great-Britain and the colonies, so long as they remain prisoners.

Whereas the officers taken at fort Chambly, have been permitted by general Schuyler, to make choice of, and to reside in Trenton, in New-Jersey, and the disposition of the prisoners by him made, has been approved by Congress.

Ordered, That a copy of the foregoing resolution be sent to the committee of Trenton, and that the said committee be desired to get the same signed by the officers there.

Resolved, That the officers taken at St. John's, be sent to Windham and Lebanon, in the colony of Connecticut, provided general Schuyler has not given his word for another disposition of them.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed, and the order of the day renewed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock on Monday.

Monday, November 20, 1775.

Several letters, from general Washington and governor Trumbull, with others enclosed, among which were intercepted letters from Cork, were read.

Two petitions, one from Goddard Flier, the other from Melchior N.E. were presented to Congress and read.

Captain John Hulbert, who was sent by general Schuyler to conduct the officers, who were taken prisoners at Fort Chamblay, to Trenton, attended and made report of his proceedings.

Resolved, That the sum of 16,669 $\frac{1}{2}$ dollars, be put into the hands of Mr. Thomas Lowry, of New-Jersey, for the purpose of furnishing the two battalions, raised in said colony, with the articles allowed them, in lieu of bounty, and for one month's pay of said battalions, he to give security for the disposal of said money, and to render account to Congress.

Ordered, That Mr. R. Morris confer with Mr. Lowry, and receive proposals with regard to the recompence he will expect for this service.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to contract for supplying the battalions raised in Pennsylvania, be empowered to advertise and receive proposals, and contract for supplying the above two battalions with the rations allowed them.

The Congress then proceeded to the choice of an adjutant for the battalion, under the command of colonel lord Sterling, raised in the eastern division of New-Jersey, and Alexander Clough, was elected.

Resolved, That general Schuyler be directed to make farther search in the places where the lead was found at Crown-Point and Ticonderoga, and that he send as much lead as can be spared to the camp at Cambridge.

Resolved, That the secret committee be empowered to contract for the importation of an hundred tons of lead.

Resolved, That the intercepted letters be referred to the committee of seven, appointed the 17th instant, in order to select such parts of them as it may be proper to publish, and that they lay the extracts before Congress.

The orders of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, November 21, 1775.

Mr. Morris, who was appointed to confer with Mr. Lowry, having made his report, and the same being considered,

Resolved, That Mr. Lowry be allowed one and a quarter per cent. in full of all charges, for the money passing through his hands.

The Congress then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the petitions from Bermuda to them referred, and after some time spent therein, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the petitions to them referred, and had come to certain resolutions thereon, which he read in his place, and then delivered in.

The report of the committee being again read,

Ordered, That the same be considered to-morrow.

The orders of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock tomorrow.

WEDNESDAY, November 22, 1775.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report from the committee of the whole, which was agreed to as follows :

The committee of the whole, to whom were referred the several petitions from the island of Bermuda, representing the distress to which they were exposed by the non-exportation agreement, and praying to be relieved in such manner as the Congress may deem consistent with the safety of America, report that they have considered the same, and thereupon came to the following resolutions :

That the inhabitants of the island of Bermuda appear friendly to the cause of America, and ought to be supplied with such, and so great a quantity of the produce of these colonies, as may be necessary for their subsistence and home consumption ; that in the opinion of this committee, they will annually require for the purposes aforesaid, 72,000 bushels of Indian corn, 2000 barrels of bread or flour, 1000 barrels of beef or pork, 2100 bushels of peas or beans, and 300 tierces of rice, and that they be permitted to export the same yearly.

That the said inhabitants ought to pay for the above annual allowance in salt, but it is not the design of this resolution to exclude them from the privilege of receiving American produce to any amount in exchange for arms, ammunition, saltpetre, sulphur, and field-pieces, agreeable to a resolution of Congress, passed the 15th of July last.

That to enable such of these colonies as can conveniently furnish the island of Bermuda with the above mentioned allowance, to divide whatever advantages may result therefrom, in proportion to their respective shares of the general expense ; it is further the opinion of this committee,

That the colony of South-Carolina, supply them with 300 tierces of rice.

That the colony of North-Carolina, supply them with 16,000 bushels of Indian corn, and 468 bushels of peas or beans.

That the colony of Virginia, supply them with 36,000 bushels of Indian corn, and 1050 bushels of peas or beans.

That the colony of Maryland, supply them with 20,000 bushels of Indian corn, and 582 bushels of peas or beans.

That the colony of Pennsylvania, supply them with 1200 barrels of flour or bread, and 600 barrels of beef or pork.

That the colony of New-York, supply them with 800 barrels of flour or bread, and 400 barrels of beef or pork.

That the conventions or committees of safety, of the above mentioned colonies ought to superintend the said exportation, provide against frauds, and take care, that in exchanging the said commodities of salt and provisions, no undue advantage be taken by either party of their mutual wants, and further that no vessel employed in this business ought to load without their permission, and that when they shall, in pursuance of these resolutions, permit any of the said vessels to load, they do give notice thereof to the commit-

ree of inspection of the county, city, or town where such vessel shall load, and inform them that the same is done under the authority, and by order of this Congress.

Ordered, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions be transmitted to the several conventions, assemblies, or committees of safety of the United Colonies, and to the island of Bermuda; and that the inhabitants of the latter be informed, that the Congress will afford them other necessaries (such as lumber, soap, and candles,) whenever the quality and quantity of each of those articles used in the island shall be ascertained.

That Edward Stiles be permitted under the direction of the committee of safety of the colony of Pennsylvania, to send the brig *Sea-nymph*, Samuel Stobel, master, with 4000 bushels of Indian corn, 300 barrels of flour, 100 barrels of bread, 20 barrels of pork, 8 barrels of beef, 30 boxes of soap, and 15 barrels of apples to Bermuda, for the immediate supply of the inhabitants, and that the said cargo be considered as part of the annual allowance aforesaid, for the year ensuing.

The committee on Volckert P. Douw's letter, and the minutes of the treaty at Albany, brought in their report, which being read and debated,

Resolved, That the further consideration thereof be deferred till to-morrow.

The orders of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, November 23, 1775.

Resolved, That 120 dollars be paid to captain John Hulbert, and charged to general Schuyler, and that said J. Hulbert, after stationing his men at the fortresses on Hudson's river, have leave to be absent ten days.

The committee for sitting out armed vessels laid before Congress a draught of rules for the government of the American navy, and articles to be signed by the officers and men employed in that service, which were read, and ordered to lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

The committee on general Washington's letter brought in their report, which being read,

Ordered, That the same lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on Mr. Douw's letter, and the Albany treaty, and after debate the first paragraph was postponed, and the remainder agreed to as follows:

The committee to whom it was referred to take into consideration the letter from Volckert P. Douw, Esq; and the minutes of the treaty held with the Indians at Albany, by the commissioners for Indian affairs in the northern department, have examined the same, and come to the following resolutions thereupon,

That it is the opinion of this committee, that the Indians be assured that this Congress are pleased with their desire, that the trade should be opened as formerly at Albany and Schenectady, that the Congress will exert their strenuous endeavours to procure the goods the Indians may want, and put the trade under such wise regulations, as that mutual justice may be effected, and that they hope those endeavours will be successful.

That general Schuyler be desired to furnish the commissioners at Albany with some powder, if he can spare it, to be distributed among the Indians, who in the present circumstances, are much distressed by the want of that article.

That the commissioners for transacting Indian affairs in the northern department, be desired to obtain from the Mohawk Indians, and the corporation of Albany, a state of the controversy between them, concerning the land desired by the former in the late treaty at Albany, to be restored to them, and report the matter as it shall appear to them, to the Congress.

That the said commissioners be desired, at the expense of the United Colonies, to provide for and entertain the sachems and warriors of the Six Nations, and other Indians friendly to these colonies, their attendants and messengers, with the accustomed hospitality when they come to Albany or Schenectady, to treat, or give intelligence of public affairs, or upon a visit, and for this purpose that 750 dollars be lodged in the hands of the said commissioners subject to account.

That the said commissioners be directed to employ two blacksmiths for reasonable salaries, to reside among and work for the Indians of the Six Nations.

That the said commissioners be empowered to employ an interpreter, with a salary 222½ dollars by the year, commencing the 12th day of this month, who shall also be allowed his travelling expenses to be settled by the commissioners, and James Deane, if they judge him well qualified, is recommended to execute this office.

That 23 dollars be paid to James Deane over and above the 75 dollars advanced him by the commissioners for his past services.

Resolved, That three members be added to the committee on the Albany treaty, and that they be directed to consider of a plan for carrying on a trade with the Indians, and to devise ways and means for procuring goods proper for that trade.

The members chosen, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Deane, and Mr. Lewis.

Whereas major Hawley, who was elected one of the commissioners of Indian affairs in the northern department, cannot, on account of the situation of his private affairs, attend that business, and he having by his letter desired to be excused from that service,

Resolved, That to-morrow be assigned for electing a commissioner of Indian affairs in the northern department, in the room of the said major Hawley.

Information being given to Congress, that certain frauds have been attempted in executing contracts for the continent,

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to enquire into that matter.

The members chosen, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Johnson, colonel Lee, and Mr. S. Adams.

Application being made by Mr. Jay, in behalf of lieutenant Hammar, one of the prisoners at Trenton, for leave to reside with Mr. Duer, near Saratoga, the same was granted, he to be on the same parole as other officers, with this variation, not to go farther than twelve miles from the place now assigned him.

Application being also made in behalf of lieutenant Symes, a prisoner now in the gaol of Philadelphia, for leave to reside at Trenton, on the same parole as the other officers there, the same was granted.

Information being given to Congress by the committee of inspection for the city and liberties of Philadelphia, that sundry persons in this city have refused to receive in payment or give currency to the bills issued by order of this Congress, and also to those emitted by the assembly of this province.

Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed to take this matter into consideration, and report thereon to Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. Jay, Dr. Franklin, Mr. S. Adams, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Wythe, Mr. E. Rutledge, and Mr. Jefferson.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed, and the orders of the day renewed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

Friday, November 24, 1775.

Resolved, That dispatches be sent to the colony agents in England, by Mr. Morris's vessel, which will be ready to sail on Monday next.

The committee to whom the intercepted letters were referred, brought in their report, which being read and agreed to,

Ordered. That the said committee publish the extracts now laid before Congress, and that they get a thousand copies of the same, together with an authentic account of the capture of Chambly and St. John's, struck off.

Ordered, That the committee prepare a letter to the colony agents.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress proceeded to the choice of a commissioner for Indian affairs in the northern department, in the room of major Hawley, and the ballots being taken and examined,

Timothy Edwards, Esq; was unanimously elected.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to take into consideration the state of North-Carolina, and report to Congress what in their opinion is necessary to be done for its safety and security.

The members chosen, Mr. E. Rutledge, Mr. Jefferson, and Mr. Paca.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report on gene-

ral Washington's letter, and the same, after debate, was referred for farther consideration till to-morrow.

A petition from Downham Newton, was presented and read.

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Allen, and Mr. Jay.

Resolved, That the treasurers pay such sums of money as the committee for promoting the manufacture of saltpetre shall draw orders upon or apply to them for, not exceeding 1000 dollars, to be accounted for by said committee.

That in case the committee for promoting the manufacture of saltpetre, cannot procure persons to go to Virginia for that purpose, it be recommended to the gentlemen, who are desired and empowered to superintend and forward the work in that colony, to employ any skillful managers they can meet with, to undertake it.

A petition from captain Dugal Mc. Gregor, was presented and read.

Resolved, That it be referred to the committee to whom Downham Newton's petition is referred.

The committee on the state of the treasury, brought in their report, which was read, and referred till to-morrow.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

SATURDAY, November 25, 1775.

The Congress proceeded to the election of field officers for the battalion raised in Pennsylvania, when the ballots being taken and examined:

John Bull, Esq; was elected colonel.

James Irvine, Esq; lieutenant-colonel.

Anthony James Morris, Esq; major.

Resolved, That Monday next be assigned for the appointment of an adjutant and a quarter-master for the second battalion, raised in New-Jersey, and of an adjutant and quarter-master for the battalion raised in Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That Tuesday next be assigned for the consideration of the memorials of the tea-holders in New-York and Philadelphia.

The committee of claims reported, that there is due to John Hinckman, for provisions furnished to several rifle companies, the sum of 65.2 dollars.

Christopher Haine, for kettles and canteens, furnished to captain Stevenson and captain Pells's companies, the sum of 35.8 dollars, which ought to be paid to Gibson and Aston.

Richard Bache, deputy post-master, for sundry postages, from the 14th of October to 8th November, 1775, inclusive, 31.1 dollars.

Thomas Dewees, for dicting the crew of the ship Rebecca and Frances, 44.4 dollars.

Levi Hollingsworth, for expenses of himself and three others, to Ticonderoga and back again, who took with them a quantity of money for general Schuyler, the sum of 128 dollars.

Andrew Bunker, for blankets and kettles, furnished captain Stevenfon's company, by Anthony Noble, 41.4 dollars.

Doctor Franklin, for the expenses of Mr. Harrifon, Mr. Lynch, and himself, on their journey to the camp at Cambridge, including carriage hire, &c. 581.9 dollars, and for other monies paid by him for the continental service, including 20 dollars advanced to Christopher Madeira, and to be charged to him the sum of 72.7 dollars.

John Sterret, for goods furnished by Joseph Holmes to captain Morgan's company, to be charged to said company, the sum of 55.9 dollars.

William West, for goods furnished by John Holmes to captain Cluggage's company, the sum of 281.3 dollars, of which sum, 35½ dollars being for blankets charged to the continent, and the remainder to captain Cluggage's company,

Ordered, That the above accounts be paid.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on general Washington's letter, and the same being debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows :

Whereas, it appears from undoubted information, that many vessels which had cleared at the respective custom-houses in these colonies, agreeable to the regulations established by acts of the British parliament, have in a lawless manner, without even the semblance of just authority, been seized by his majesty's ships of war, and carried into the harbour of Boston and other ports, where they have been rided of their cargoes, by orders of his majesty's naval and military officers, there commanding, without the said vessels having been proceeded against by any form of trial, and without the charge of having offended against any law.

And whereas orders have been issued in his majesty's name, to the commanders of his ships of war, " to proceed as in the case of actual rebellion against such of the sea-port towns and places being accessible to the king's ships, in which any troops shall be raised or military works erected," under colour of which said orders, the commanders of his majesty's said ships of war, have already burned and destroyed the flourishing and populous town of Falmouth, and have fired upon and much injured several other towns within the United Colonies, and dispersed at a late season of the year, hundreds of helpless women and children, with a savage hope that those may perish under the approaching rigours of the season, who may chance to escape destruction from fire and sword, a mode of warfare long exploded amongst civilized nations.

And whereas the good people of these colonies, sensibly affected by the destruction of their property, and other unprovoked injuries, have at last determined to prevent as much as possible a repetition thereof, and to procure some reparation for the same, by fitting out armed vessels and ships of force. In the execution of which commendable designs, it is possible that those who have not been instrumental in the unwarrantable violences abovementioned may suffer,

unless some laws be made to regulate, and tribunals erected competent to determine the propriety of captures: Therefore resolved,

1st. That all such ships of war, frigates, sloops, cutters, and armed vessels as are or shall be employed in the present cruel and unjust war against the United Colonies, and shall fall into the hands of, or be taken by the inhabitants thereof, be seized and forfeited to, and for the purposes hereinafter mentioned.

2d. *Resolved*, That all transport vessels in the same service, having on board any troops, arms, ammunition, cloathing, provisions, or military or naval stores, of what kind soever, and all vessels to whomsoever belonging, that shall be employed in carrying provisions or other necessaries to the British army or armies, or navy, that now are or shall hereafter be within any of the United Colonies, or any goods, wares, or merchandize for the use of such fleet or army, shall be liable to seizure, and with their cargoes shall be confiscated.

3d. That no master or commander of any vessel shall be entitled to cruise for, or make prize of any vessel or cargo before he shall have obtained a commission from the Congress, or from such person or persons as shall be for that purpose appointed in some one of the United Colonies.

4th. That it be and is hereby recommended to the several legislatures in the United Colonies, as soon as possible, to erect courts of justice, or give jurisdiction to the courts now in being for the purpose of determining concerning the captures to be made as aforesaid, and to provide that all trials in such case be had by a jury under such qualifications, as to the respective legislatures shall seem expedient.

5th. That all prosecutions shall be commenced in the court of that colony in which the captures shall be made, but if no such court be at that time erected in the said colony, or if the capture be made on open sea, then the prosecution shall be in the court of such colony as the captor may find most convenient, provided that nothing contained in this resolution shall be construed so as to enable the captor to remove his prize from any colony competent to determine concerning the seizure, after he shall have carried the vessel so seized within any harbour of the same.

6th. That in all cases an appeal shall be allowed to the Congress, or such person or persons as they shall appoint for the trial of appeals, provided the appeal be demanded within five days after definitive sentence, and such appeal be lodged with the secretary of Congress within forty days afterwards, and provided the party appealing shall give security to prosecute the said appeal to effect, and in case of the death of the secretary during the recess of Congress, then the said appeal to be lodged in Congress within twenty days after the meeting thereof.

7th. That when any vessel or vessels shall be fitted out at the expense of any private person or persons, then the captures made shall be to the use of the owner or owners of the said vessel or ves-

fels; that where the vessels employed in the capture shall be fitted out at the expense of any of the United Colonies, then one-third of the prize taken shall be to the use of the captors, and the remaining two-thirds to the use of the said colony, and where the vessels so employed shall be fitted out at the continental charge, then one-third shall go to the captors, and the remaining two-thirds to the use of the United Colonies; provided, nevertheless, that if the capture be a vessel of war, then the captors shall be entitled to one-half of the value, and the remainder shall go to the colony or continent as the case may be, the necessary charges of condemnation of all prizes, being deducted before distribution made.

8th. That the captures heretofore made by vessels fitted out at the continental charge were justifiable, and that the distribution of the captor's share of the prizes by general Washington, be confirmed, which is as follows:

A captain or commander,	6 shares.
First lieutenant,	5 do.
Second lieutenant,	4 do.
Surgeon,	4 do.
Master,	3 do.
Steward,	2 do.
Mate,	1 and a half share.
Gunner,	1 and a half do.
Boatswain,	1 and a half do.
Gunner's mate,	1 and a half do.
Serjeant,	1 and a half do.
Privates,	1 share.

Resolved, That that part of general Washington's letter of the 11th instant, respecting the capture of a vessel by the inhabitants of New-Hampshire, be referred to the committee, who brought in the foregoing report.

The Congress next took into consideration the rules and orders for the fleet of the United Colonies, but not having time to finish them,

Resolved, That the farther consideration of them be deferred till Monday next.

The orders of the day being renewed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock on Monday.

MONDAY, November 27, 1775.

A report prevailing that young Mr. Skene, who was a prisoner in Connecticut, has made his escape,

Resolved, That the delegates of Connecticut be a committee to enquire into the truth of that report.

Resolved, That orders issue to lord Sterling to collect the troops which were raised in New-Jersey (except the six companies which have been ordered to the fortresses on Hudson's river) and to place them in barracks in the eastern division of New-Jersey, as contiguous

ous to New-York as can be, there to remain till further orders from Congress.

Resolved, That a letter be written to the convention of New-York, requesting them to use their utmost endeavours to furnish the troops raised in New-Jersey for the defence of New-York, with as many arms as they can spare.

The Congress then proceeded to the choice of an adjutant and quarter-master for the battalion raised in the western division of New-Jersey, when

Mr. Ephraim Anderson was elected adjutant, and Mr. Buddel Shinn, quarter-master.

Resolved, That the troops in the service of the continent be supplied with fuel and bedding at the expence of the continent.

Resolved, That an order for 3000 dollars be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of the committee of safety of Pennsylvania, to be applied towards the pay of the battalion raised in said colony, the committee to account for the expenditure of the same.

A letter from general Washington of the 19th instant, enclosing a copy of a letter from colonel Arnold, of the 27th October, being received, was read.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the disputes between the people of Connecticut and Pennsylvania, and after debate,

Resolved, That the same be recommitted, and that it be an instruction to the committee to hear evidence on the possession and jurisdiction of the lands in dispute, and reduce to writing such parts of the evidence as they shall think proper.

As three of the committee are absent, viz. Mr. J. Rutledge, Mr. Chase, and Mr. Kinsey,

Resolved, That three members be elected in their stead.

The members chosen, Mr. Wythe, Mr. Jay, and Mr. Hooper.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, November 28, 1775.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the rules and orders for the navy of the United Colonies, and the same being debated by paragraphs, were agreed to as follows:

Rules for the regulation of the navy of the United Colonies:

The commanders of all ships and vessels belonging to the thirteen United Colonies, are strictly required to shew in themselves a good example of honour and virtue to their officers and men, and to be very vigilant in inspecting the behaviour of all such as are under them, and to discountenance and suppress all dissolute, immoral, and disorderly practices, and also such as are contrary to the rules of discipline and obedience, and to correct those who are guilty of the same, according to the usage of the sea.

The commanders of the ships of the thirteen United Colonies, are to take care that divine service be performed twice a day on

board, and a sermon preached on Sundays, unless bad weather or other extraordinary accidents prevent.

If any shall be heard to swear, curse or blaspheme the name of God, the commander is strictly enjoined to punish them for every offence, by causing them to wear a wooden collar, or some other shameful badge of distinction, for so long time as he shall judge proper. If he be a commissioned officer, he shall forfeit one shilling for each offence, and a warrant or inferior officer six-pence. He who is guilty of drunkenness, if a seaman, shall be put in irons until he is sober, but if an officer, he shall forfeit two days pay.

No commander shall inflict any punishment upon a seaman beyond twelve lashes upon his bare back, with a cat of nine tails; if the fault shall deserve a greater punishment, he is to apply to the commander in chief of the navy, in order to the trying of him by a court-martial, and in the mean time he may put him under confinement.

The commander is never by his own authority to discharge a commission or warrant officer, nor to punish or strike him, but he may suspend or confine them, and when he comes in the way of a commander in chief, apply to him for holding a court-martial.

The officer who commands by accident of the captain or commander's absence (unless he be absent for a time by leave) shall not order any correction, but confinement, and upon the captains return on board, he shall then give an account of his reasons for so doing.

The captain is to cause the articles of war to be hung up in some public place of the ship, and read to the ship's company once a month.

Whenever a captain shall enlist a seaman, he shall take care to enter on his books the time and terms of his entering, in order to his being justly paid.

The captain shall, before he sails, make return to, and leave with the Congress, or such person or persons as the Congress shall appoint for that purpose, a compleat list of all his officers and men, with the time and terms of their entering; and during his cruise, shall keep a true account of the desertion or death of any of them, and of the entering of others, and after his cruise, and before any of them are paid off, he shall make return of a compleat list of the same, including those who shall remain on board his ship.

The men shall, at their request, be furnished with slops, that are necessary, by the captain or purser, who shall keep an account of the same, and the captain in his return in the last mentioned article directed to be made, shall mention the amount delivered to each man, in order to its being stopped out of his pay.

As to the term "inferior officer," the captain is to take notice, that the same does not include any commission nor any warrant officer, except the second multer, surgeon's mate, cook, armourer, gunsmith, master at arms, and sail-maker.

The captain is to take care when any inferior officers or volun-

teer seamen are turned over into the ship under his command from any other ship, not to rate them on the ship's books in a worse quality or lower degree, or station, than they served in the ship they were removed from; and for his guidance, he is to demand from the commander of the ship from which they are turned over, a list under his hand of their names and qualities.

Any officer, seaman, or others, entitled to wages or prize money, may have the same paid to his assignee, provided the assignment be attested by the captain or commander, the master or purser of the ship, or a chief magistrate of some county or corporation.

The captain is to discourage the seamen of his ship from selling any part of their wages or shares, and never to attest the letter of attorney of any seaman, until he is fully satisfied that the same is not granted in consideration of money given for the purchase of his wages or shares.

When any inferior officer or seaman dies, the captain is forthwith to make out a ticket for the time of his service, and to send the same by the first safe conveyance to the Congress, or agents by them for that purpose appointed, in order to the wages being forthwith paid to the executors or administrators of the deceased.

A convenient place shall be set apart for sick or hurt men, to which they are to be removed with their hammocks and bedding, when the surgeon shall advise the same to be necessary, and some of the crew shall be appointed to attend and serve them, and to keep the place clean.

The cooper shall make buckets with covers, and cradles, if necessary, for their use.

All ships, furnished with fishing tackle, being in such places where fish is to be had, the captain is to employ some of the company in fishing; the fish to be distributed daily to such persons as are sick, or upon recovery, provided the surgeon recommend it, and the surplus by turns amongst the messes of the officers and seamen gratis, without any deduction of their allowance of provisions on that account.

It is left to the discretion of commanders of squadrons, to shorten the allowance of provisions according to the exigence of the service, taking care that the men be punctually paid for the same.

The like power is given to captains of single ships, in cases of absolute necessity.

If there should be a want of pork, the captain is to order three pounds of beef to be issued to the men, in lieu of two pounds of pork.

One day in every week shall be issued out a proportion of flour and suet, in lieu of beef, for the seamen, but this is not to extend beyond four months victualling at one time, nor shall the purser receive any allowance for flour or suet kept longer on board than that time, and there shall be supplied once a year, a proportion of canvasses for pudding-bags, after the rate of one ell for every sixteen men.

If any ships of the thirteen United Colonies, shall happen to come into port in want of provisions, the warrant of a commander in chief shall be sufficient to the agent or other instrument of the victualling, to supply the quantity wanted, and in urgent cases where delay may be hurtful, the warrant of the captain of the ship shall be of equal effect.

The captain is frequently to order the proper officers to inspect the condition of the provisions, and if the bread proves damp, to have it aired upon the quarter deck or poop, and also examine the flesh cask, and if any of the pickle be leaked out, to have new made and put in, and the cask made tight and secure.

The captain or purser shall secure the cloaths, bedding, and other things of such persons as shall die or be killed, to be delivered to their executors or administrators.

All papers, charter parties, bills of lading, passports, and other writings whatsoever, found on board any ship or ships, which shall be taken, shall be carefully preserved, and the originals sent to the court of justice for maritime affairs, appointed or to be appointed by the legislatures in the respective colonies, for judging concerning such prize or prizes; and if any person or persons shall wilfully or negligently destroy or suffer to be destroyed, any such paper or papers, he or they so offending, shall forfeit their share of such prize or prizes, and suffer such other punishment, as they shall be judged by a court-martial to deserve.

If any person or persons shall embezzle, or steal, or take away any cables, anchors, sails, or any of the ship's furniture, or any of the powder, arms, ammunition, or provisions of any ship belonging to the thirteen United Colonies, he or they shall suffer such punishment as a court-martial shall order.

When in sight of a ship or ships of the enemy, and at such other times as may appear to make it necessary to prepare for an engagement, the captain shall order all things in his ship in a proper posture for fight, and shall in his own person, and according to his duty, heart on and encourage the inferior officers and men to fight courageously, and not to behave themselves faintly or cry for quarters, on pain of such punishment as the offence shall appear to deserve for his neglect.

Any captain or other officer, mariner, or others, who shall basely desert their duty or station in the ship, and run away while the enemy is in sight, or, in time of action, shall entice others to do so, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as a court-martial shall inflict.

Any officer, seaman, or marine, who shall begin, excite, cause, or join in any mutiny or sedition in the ship to which he belongs, on any pretence whatsoever, shall suffer death, or such other punishment as a court-martial shall direct. Any person in or belonging to the ship, who shall utter any words of sedition and mutiny, or endeavour to make any mutinous assemblies on any pretence whatsoever, shall suffer such punishment as a court-martial shall inflict.

“ You swear the evidence you shall give, in the cause now in hearing, shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.” So help you God.

The sentence of a court-martial for any capital offence, shall not be put in execution, until it be confirmed by the commander in chief of the fleet; and it shall be the duty of the president of every court-martial, to transmit to the commander in chief of the fleet, every sentence which shall be given, with a summary of the evidence and proceedings thereon, by the first opportunity.

The commander in chief of the fleet, for the time being, shall have power to pardon and remit any sentence of death, that shall be given in consequence of any of the aforementioned articles.

There shall be allowed to each man serving on board the ships in the service of the thirteen United Colonies, a daily proportion of provisions, according as is expressed in the following table, viz.

Sunday, 1 lb. bread, 1 lb. beef, 1 lb. potatoes or turnips.

Monday, 1 lb. bread, 1 lb. pork, half pint pease, and four ounces cheese.

Tuesday, 1 lb. bread, 1 lb. beef, 1 lb. potatoes or turnips, and pudding.

Wednesday, 1 lb. bread, two ounces butter, four ounces cheese, and half pint of rice.

Thursday, 1 lb. bread, 1 lb. pork, and half pint of pease.

Friday, 1 lb. bread, 1 lb. beef, 1 lb. potatoes or turnips, and pudding.

Saturday, 1 lb. bread, 1 lb. pork, half pint pease, and four ounces cheese.

Half a pint of rum per man every day, and discretionary allowance on extra duty, and in time of engagement.

A pint and half of vinegar for six men per week.

The pay of the officers and men shall be as follows* :

Captain or commander,	32 dollars,	} per calendar month.
Lieutenants,	20 do.	
Master,	20 do.	
Mates,	15 do.	
Boatswain,	15 do.	
Boatswain's first mate,	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ do.	
Ditto, second ditto,	8 do.	
Gunner,	15 do.	
Ditto mate,	10 $\frac{2}{3}$ do.	
Surgeon,	21 $\frac{1}{3}$ do.	
Surgeon's mate,	13 $\frac{1}{3}$ do.	
Carpenter,	15 do.	
Carpenter's mate,	10 $\frac{2}{3}$ do.	
Cooper,	15 do.	
Captain's clerk,	15 do.	
Steward,	13 $\frac{1}{3}$ do.	

* See 13th and 19th of December, 1775.

Chaplain,	20	do.	} per calendar month.
Able seamen,	6 $\frac{2}{3}$	do.	
Captain of marines,	26 $\frac{2}{3}$	do.	
Lieutenants,	18	do.	
Serjeants,	8	do.	
Corporals,	7 $\frac{1}{3}$	do.	
Fifer,	7 $\frac{1}{3}$	do.	
Drummer,	7 $\frac{1}{3}$	do.	
Privates or marines,	6 $\frac{2}{3}$	do.	

ORDERS OF CONGRESS.

We, whose hands and marks are hereunto set and subscribed, being officers, seamen, and marines, do, and each of us doth agree to and with _____ of the good ship, called the

_____ belonging to the thirteen United Colonies of North-America, in manner and form following, that is to say,

In the first place, we do hereby agree for, by and under the considerations aftermentioned, to and with the said commander, forthwith to enter and ship ourselves, and in due and seasonable time, to repair on board the said ship, called the _____ and during the term of _____ months, to the utmost of our power and ability respectively, to discharge our several services or stations, and in every thing to be conformable and obedient to the several requirings and lawful commands of the said _____ and his successors in command.

Secondly, We do also oblige and subject ourselves to serve on board the said ship during the said cruise, and as she is a ship of war, we do severally oblige ourselves by these articles, to comply with, and be subject to the rules and discipline of the American fleet, as established by the Congress, and to be governed and commanded in time of action with an enemy, according to the same rules, and submit ourselves to the same punishments and penalties as are there inflicted, in case we or any of us offer to desert our quarters, or not obey the commands of the said _____ or his successors in command, in giving chase to any ship or ships, vessel or vessels, or otherwise, and if upon a scrutiny of our said _____ or his said officers, we or any of us should be found guilty of any breach contrary to the tenor of this agreement, or any act of cowardice, we do hereby severally submit and agree to allow and forfeit our several and respective shares of and in any prize or prizes, we shall then have taken, to be divided amongst the said ship's company.

Thirdly, We do also severally agree and oblige ourselves, that when any prize or prizes have been taken, to follow the express directions of the said _____ or his successors, in boarding the said prize, and be under the command of any officer whom the said _____ shall appoint, and be assisting to him to carry the said prize to whatever port or ports such prize or prizes shall be assigned by the said _____ And we do hereby further se-

verally agree and covenant in that case, to be true and faithful in discharge of our duty and trust, and will not, in any shape, embezzle, defraud, or plunder any thing on board such prize or prizes; and in case any or either of us shall be found guilty of any breach contrary to the true meaning of this agreement, we, and such of us being guilty thereof, do hereby severally submit and agree to allow so much of all and every of our shares, and part of our shares of and in the said prize or prizes then or thence after to be taken, and of all our respective wages, that then shall be due and coming to us, in respect to our services, as shall make good such plunder and embezzlement, we shall have been found guilty of.

Fourthly, And it is also further agreed to be the true intent and meaning of all parties hereto, that the officer or officers, or any of the ship's company sent on board any prize, shall have as good a share and interest of any prize that shall be thereafter taken, during his or their absence, as if he or they had been on board the said vessel, at the time of taking thereof. any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding. Provided always, and it is hereby agreed to be the meaning of the said last mentioned clause, that if the said officer or officers, and such of the said ship's company, to whom the conduct and management of any prize has been entrusted, do not (first having accepted the commands of the said commander concerning the said prize under his or their custody) immediately repair to the respective port or harbour where the said

or his successors in command shall order, or do not proceed with the said prize or prizes so taken, to the respective port or ports to be assigned by the said

for the time being, that then, and in failure of any or either of the agreements aforesaid, contained on our parts, we and each and every of us so offending, do hereby severally submit and agree to be cashiered, not only for our several and respective interests and shares of and in the captures of prize-money, but totally to be excluded and divested from the payment of any wages then due us, for and in respect of our several services on board the said ship and the interest and shares of such delinquents, that otherwise would have accrued to us.

Fifthly, And the said for and in behalf of himself and the thirteen United Colonies of North-America, doth hereby covenant and agree to and with the said officers, seamen, and marines, whose names or marks are hereto set and subscribed, to pay them in consideration of such services, so much money per month, as in a schedule here-under mentioned, is set opposite to the names or marks of each respective officer, seaman, or landman; and likewise to advance to each and every of them, one month's pay at entrance, (due security for the same being first given) the receipt whereof they do hereby acknowledge.

Sixthly, And as an encouragement to exert the valour of the seamen and marines in defending the said ship, and in subduing and distressing the said enemy, the said for and on be-

half of the thirteen United Colonies of North-America, doth further covenant, promise, and agree to and with all and every the officers, seamen, and marines, parties hereto, that in case any prize or prizes shall be taken by the said ship, during the intended cruize, that the same shall be proceeded against, and distributed according to the resolutions of Congress.

Seventhly, And it is by these presents mutually agreed and consented to, by, and between the said _____ and every the officers, seamen, and marines, parties hereto, that in case the commander, for the time being lose a limb, in an engagement, or be otherwise disabled, so as to be rendered incapable afterwards of getting a livelihood to subsist upon, he shall receive out of the nett profits of such prize or prizes, or prize goods, if so much arise, before dividend or distribution be declared, the sum of four hundred dollars; or if he lose his life, his widow or children (if any) shall receive the said bounty of four hundred dollars, together with all prize-money to him belonging at the time of his decease. And if the captain of marines, or any other commission or warrant officer lose a limb, or be otherwise disabled, so as to be rendered incapable afterwards of getting a subsistence, he or they so disabled, shall receive a bounty of three hundred dollars, if so much arise from the nett profits as aforesaid; and in case of death, the widow or children (if any) is, are, and shall be entitled to the same, together with their share of prize-money due at the time of their decease. And if an inferior officer, seaman or marine, lose a limb, or be otherwise disabled, so as to be rendered incapable afterwards of getting a subsistence, he or they shall receive a bounty of 200 dollars, to be deducted as aforesaid; and in case of death, his widow or children, (if any) is, are, and shall be entitled to the same, together with his share of prize-money due at the time of his decease.

He who first discovers a ship or vessel which shall afterwards become a prize, shall be entitled to a double share of such prize.

There shall be ten shares of every prize, which shall be taken and condemned, set apart to be given to such inferior officers, seamen and marines, as shall be adjudged best to deserve them by the superior officers, who shall be appointed to make such determination.

He who shall first board a ship or other vessel, making resistance, which shall become a prize, shall be entitled to a triple share.

Provided always, and it is hereby declared to be the true intent and meaning of the parties to the aforementioned articles and orders, that any of the officers, seamen, and marines, shall be liable to be removed by the Congress or committee of the Congress, during the recess thereof, or by the commander in chief of the American fleet, for the time being, from the aforesaid vessel to any other armed vessel in the service of the United Colonies, any thing contained in the foregoing orders and articles notwithstanding.

The Congress then took into consideration the report of the committee on North-Carolina, whereupon.

Resolved, That the two battalions, which the Congress directed

to be raised in the colony of North-Carolina, be encreased to the continental establishment, and kept in pay at the expence of the United Colonies for one year from this time, or until the farther order of Congress, as well for the purpose of defending the good people of that colony against the attacks of ministerial oppression as assisting the adjacent colonies.

That application be made to the councils of safety of the colonies of Pennsylvania and South-Carolina, for so much gun-powder as can be spared for the immediate supply of North-Carolina.

Resolved, That the delegates of the colony of North-Carolina, be directed to purchase a number of drums, fises and colours, suitable for the said battalions, and that the president be directed to draw on the continental treasurers for a sum not exceeding three hundred dollars for the payment thereof.

That the convention or committee of safety of North-Carolina, be desired to employ, immediately, all the gun-smiths in that colony, in the making of musquets and bayonets of the size, and in the manner recommended by Congress the 4th of this inst. November.

That two ministers of the gospel be applied to, to go immediately amongst the regulators and highlanders in the colony of North-Carolina, for the purpose of informing them of the nature of the present dispute between Great-Britain and the colonies: that the gentlemen to be employed, be allowed 40 dollars a month for their services; and that the delegates of the said colony be empowered to apply to and procure persons proper for this business.

That it be recommended to the convention or committee of safety of North-Carolina, in case the method of defending the said colony by minute-men be inadequate to the purpose, to substitute such other mode as to them shall appear most likely to effect the security of that colony.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on the memorials of the tea-holders, and the same being debated,

On the question put to agree to it,

Carried in the negative.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, November 29, 1775.

A letter from general Schuyler, by express, being received, was read, containing an account of the continental troops under brigadier general Montgomery, having taken possession of Montreal on the 12th instant.

The committee, to whom was referred the petition of Downham Newton, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration, whereupon,

Resolved, That the said Downham Newton be permitted to export on board his vessel, on the terms proposed in his petition, such provisions of pork and flour as he shall think proper.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on the state of the treasury, and thereupon came to the following resolution:

Resolved, That bills of credit be emitted by Congress to the amount of three millions of dollars.

That the committee on the state of the treasury be directed to consult the printer, and report the numbers and denominations of the bills to be emitted, and that they contract for proper paper for printing the said bills.

The committee appointed to prepare a letter to the agents, brought in the same, which being read and debated, was agreed to.

Ordered, That a fair copy be made, signed and forwarded.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed for the sole purpose of corresponding with our friends in Great-Britain, Ireland, and other parts of the world, and that they lay their correspondence before Congress when directed.

Resolved, That Congress will make provision to defray all such expenses as may arise by carrying on such a correspondence, and for the payment of such agents as they may send on this service.

The members chosen, Mr. Harrison, Dr. Franklin, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Dickinson, and Mr. Jay.

The committee on the proclamations, brought in their report, which was read, and ordered to lie on the table for the perusal of the members.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,
Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, November 30, 1775.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to revise the journal of last session, be directed to revise the journal of the present, in order to its being printed; and that it be an instruction to the said committee, to examine whether it will yet be proper to publish any of those parts omitted in the journal of last session.

Resolved, That Mr. Wythe be added to the said committee, in the room of Mr. J. Rutledge, who is absent.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to prepare letters of thanks to the three general officers in the northern department for their services.

The members chosen, Mr. Wilson, Mr. W. Livingston, and Mr. Jay.

The Congress then resumed the consideration of general Washington's letter, and thereupon came to the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the general be directed to suspend the raising the two battalions of marines out of his present army.

That the two battalions of marines be raised independant of the army already ordered for the service in Massachusetts-Bay.

That no bounty be allowed to the army on re-enlistment.

Sundry letters from general Schuyler, W. Livingston, Esq; and the committee sent to the northward being received, were read.

Resolved, That the farther consideration of the general's letter and the other matters to this day referred, be postponed till to-morrow.

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, December 1, 1775.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the letter from general Washington, whereupon,

Resolved, That the 500,000 dollars lately ordered, be forwarded, with all possible expedition, to general Washington, that he may be enabled to pay such soldiers as will re-enlist, for the succeeding year, their wages for the months of October, November and December, and also advance them one month's pay.

That the governments of New-England be informed of the resolution of Congress relative to the pay ordered to be made and advanced to the army, and be desired to promote the recruiting service in the present army, as well as in their several colonies.

A letter from the committee of Frederick-Town, in Maryland, was received and read, containing an account of their having apprehended major Connolly and his associates, and desiring the advice of Congress with regard to the prisoners,

Resolved, That the said letters, with the papers enclosed, be referred to the delegates of Virginia.

Resolved, That the farther consideration of the general's letter, and the other matters to this day referred, be postponed till to-morrow.

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

SATURDAY, December 2, 1775.

A letter from the committee of Northampton, in Virginia, with sundry papers enclosed, was received and read.

Resolved, That the same be referred to the committee on the state of Virginia.

Resolved, That Mr. Paca be added to that committee in the room of Mr. Johnson, who is absent.

Resolved, That the naval committee be directed to confer with captain Stone, and engage him and his vessel, on the most reasonable terms, in the service of the continent, for the purpose of taking or destroying the cutters and armed vessels in Chesapeake-Bay, under lord Dunmore.

Resolved, That colonel Harrison do immediately proceed to Maryland, and be empowered with the delegates of that colony, or any one or more of them, to take such measures, as appear to them most effectual to procure, with all possible dispatch, two or three armed vessels to cruize on, take or destroy armed vessels, cutters, and ships of war of the enemy, that may be found in the bay of Chesapeake, or coasts of Virginia and Maryland.

Whereas, designs are formed by certain ministerial partizans in the counties of Norfolk and Princess-Ann, and some other parts

of Virginia, on Cheapeake-Bay, under the influence of lord Dunmore, to contravene the non-exportation agreement, by exporting provisions and other produce of that country to the West-India islands, and thereby injure the interest and weaken the efforts of the United Colonies, in opposing the present oppressive system of the British ministry.

Resolved, That the said armed vessels be authorized and directed to seize and detain, until the further order of this Congress, all such ships and vessels as they may find employed in such exportations from the places aforesaid.

Resolved, That the naval committee be directed to employ the armed sloop, commanded by captain Abraham Whipple, of Rhode-Island, now on a voyage to this port, and dispatch her forthwith to aid the marine business to the southward.

That the said committee be directed to prepare a proper commission for the captains or commanders of the ships of war in the service of the United Colonies.

Resolved, That the colonel, or commanding officer of the battalion, now in the barracks at Philadelphia, be ordered to keep a regular guard over the ships and stores belonging to the United Colonies, at or on the wharves, or in the stores on the wharves of Messrs. Willing and Morris, and Mr. Cuthbert.

The assembly of New-Jersey having, by a resolution of their house, accepted the resignation of two of their delegates, and confirmed the other three, and, by another resolution, enlarged their power, the said resolutions were laid before Congress and read as follows :

“ New-Jersey, House of Assembly, November 22, 1775.

The house, taking into consideration the request of James Kinsey and John D. Hart, Esqrs; two of the delegates appointed by this house to attend the Continental Congress, for leave to resign their said appointment,

Resolved, That the reasons given by those gentlemen for their resignation, appear to this house to be satisfactory, and that their resignation therefore be accepted ; thereupon,

Resolved, That the three remaining delegates, or any two of them, represent the colony during the present continental Congress.

Thursday, November 30, 1775.

The house, taking into consideration the inconveniences arising from requiring the attendance of two of the delegates to represent the colony in the continental Congress,

Resolved, That any one of the three delegates appointed to attend the Congress be, and such delegates is hereby fully authorized to represent this colony during Congress.

A true copy from the votes,

RICHARD SMITH, Clerk of Assembly.”

The committee appointed to prepare the form of a commission, reported the same, which was read and agreed to.

Ordered, That three hundred copies be immediately printed, with proper blanks.

Application being made in behalf of captain Jenkins, for leave to export a quantity of provisions to the island of Nantucket, for the internal consumption of its inhabitants, and it being represented that he had applied to the assembly or general court of Massachusetts-Bay, and that the committee of Falmouth, to whom he was by them referred, not having it in their power to furnish the provisions wanted, had recommended him to Congress to be supplied with the same at some port in the middle or southern colonies.

Resolved, That permission be granted to captain Jenkins, to carry the provisions specified in the certificate of the committee of Falmouth, for the internal consumption of the inhabitants of Nantucket, he first taking an oath, and giving bond to the committee of inspection and observation, for the city and liberties of Philadelphia, to pursue their instructions in his voyage, and to use his utmost endeavours not to fall into the power of the cutters or armed vessels of the enemy.

The committee on the state of the treasury brought in a report, which was read, whereupon,

Resolved, That the number and denominations of the bills ordered to be emitted be as follows :

83,334	of 8	dollars each.
83,333	of 7	do.
83,333	of 6	do.
83,333	of 5	do.
83,334	of 4	do.
83,333	of 3	do.
83,333	of 2	do.
83,333	of 1	do.

Resolved, That the plates used in the last emission, be used for striking off and printing the above bills.

Resolved, That the gentlemen who superintended the presses at the last emission, be empowered to superintend the printing these bills.

Resolved, That the committee on the state of the treasury, be directed to enquire about proper persons to sign and number said bills, and report to Congress.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the general's letter ; whereupon,

Resolved, That the regiment of artillery consist of one colonel, two lieutenant-colonels, two majors and twelve companies.

That the general be informed that two gentlemen, namely, Thomas Crafts, jun. and George Trott, Esqrs; have been recommended to Congress as proper persons for field officers in said regiment, and that the general enquire into their characters and abilities ; and if, upon enquiry, he shall judge them proper, and that the appointment of them will occasion no disturbance or disgust in the regiment, that he appoint them, and acquaint Congress thereof.

Resolved, That it be an instruction to the committee appointed to contract for supplying the prisoners, that Mr. D. Franks, of this city, be permitted to supply the troops, who are prisoners in this colony, with provisions and other necessaries at the expense of the crown, and to sell his bills for such sums of money as are necessary for that purpose, and that the said committee confer with Mr. Franks, and enquire whether he will also undertake, on the same terms, to supply the prisoners in other colonies.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report of the committee of conference, whereupon,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the assembly, or general court of the colony of Massachusetts-Bay, to use all the means in their power, that the army before Boston be supplied with wood and hay, on the most reasonable terms.

That in the new establishment of the army, the general officers be not allowed regiments, nor the field officers companies.

That all persons taken in arms on board any prize, be deemed prisoners at the disposal of the general, whether the prize be taken by vessels fitted out in the pay of the continent or by others.

That such as are taken be treated as prisoners of war, but with humanity, and be allowed the same rations as the troops in the service of the continent; that the officers being in pay should supply themselves with cloaths, their bills to be taken for the same, that the soldiers be furnished as they now are.

That as the new army in Massachusetts-Bay is calculated to oppose the army at Boston, it is not expected that the general should detach any part of it to New-York or elsewhere, unless it appear to him necessary so to do, for the common safety.

That the troops in the new army be paid monthly.

That an exchange of prisoners will be proper, citizens for citizens, officers for officers of equal rank, and soldier for soldier.

That ensign Moland be detained in the place where he now is, until exchanged.

That this Congress approve the terms on which the artificers of different forts have been employed in the army; and that the general go on upon the present agreement, as being the best that can probably be made.

That the general be directed to pick out from each of the rifle companies, such as are not marksmen, and dismiss them in such manner as will be safest, with an allowance of pay to go home, if they do not chuse to insist in other battalions, and, in the mean time, that all receive their pay.

That what artillery of different kinds can be spared from New-York and Crown-Point, be procured and forwarded to the army before Boston.

That the Indians of St. Francis, Penobscot, Stockbridge, and St. John's, and other tribes, may be called on in case of real necessity, and that the giving them presents is suitable and proper.

That a committee of three be appointed to devise the best mode

of having exprestes (persons of character) posted along the roads at different distances, for the purpose of conveying early and frequent intelligence.

The members chosen, Dr. Franklin, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Deane.

That as much lead as can be spared from the northern department, and is wanted at the camp at Cambridge, be sent down from Ticonderoga to Cambridge.

That the Congress approve the general's fitting out armed vessels to intercept the enemy's supplies.

That when the army receives such supplies of powder as to be enabled to spare some to the country, that it be sold to them at a reasonable price.

That the secret committee be directed to enquire what articles are necessary for the use of the army, and how they may be procured, and report to Congress.

Ordered, That the resolutions passed on the general's letters, and on the report of the committee of conference, and such other resolutions as relate to the establishment of the new army, not already forwarded, be sent by express to the general.

The Congress being informed that Mr. Eathan Allen, who was taken prisoner near Montreal, is confined in irons on board a vessel in the river St. Lawrence.

Resolved, That general Washington be directed to apply to general Howe on this matter, and desire that he may be exchanged.

The several matters to this day referred being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock on Monday.

MONDAY, December 4, 1775.

The committee, to whom the accounts from Massachusetts-Bay were referred, reported, that for want of proper vouchers, they were not able to proceed on that business, and therefore desired to be discharged.

Resolved, That the said committee, upon their request, be discharged.

Resolved, That the sum of forty thousand dollars be advanced to the colony of New-Hampshire, on account of expenses by them incurred, the said colony to be accountable.

Resolved, That the sum of four hundred and forty-three thousand three hundred and thirty-three dollars, and one-third of a dollar, be paid to the colony of Massachusetts-Bay, in part of their account, the said colony to be accountable.

Resolved, That the said sums be paid out of the emission last ordered by Congress.

The committee on the state of Virginia, to whom were referred the letters received on Saturday last, brought in their report, which was taken into consideration; whereupon,

Resolved, That three companies of the battalion raised in the colony of Pennsylvania, immediately march under the command of lieutenant-colonel Irvine, into Northampton county, in Virginia,

for the protection of the association in those parts, and for the defence thereof against the designs of the enemies of America.

Resolved, That it be and it is hereby recommended to the inhabitants of the colony of Virginia, to resist to the utmost the arbitrary government intended to be established therein, by their governor lord Dunmore, as manifestly appears by the whole tenor of his lordship's conduct for some months past.

Whereas lord Dunmore, by his proclamation lately published, has declared his intention to execute martial law, thereby tearing up the foundations of civil authority and government within the said colony :

Resolved, Therefore, that if the convention of Virginia shall find it necessary to establish a form of government in that colony, it be recommended to that convention to call a full and free representation of the people, and that the said representatives, if they think it necessary, establish such form of government as in their judgment will best produce the happiness of the people, and most effectually secure peace and good order in the colony, during the continuance of the present dispute between Great-Britain and the colonies.

Resolved, That the committee on the state of Virginia have leave, at their request, to sit again.

Resolved, That in the present situation of affairs, it will be very dangerous to the liberties and welfare of America, if any colony should separately petition the king or either house of parliament.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with the assembly of New-Jersey.

The members chosen, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Wythe, and Mr. Jay.

Resolved, That Carlisle, in the colony of Pennsylvania, be assigned as well as the three towns of Reading, Lancaster, and York, for the reception of the prisoners taken at St. John's.

Resolved, That the president write to Mr. Knox, by the first express to Albany, and desire him, in case the services he is upon will admit, to repair to the fortresses on Hudson's river, in the highlands, inspect the state of the works carrying on there, and the situation of the places adjacent, and transmit an account thereof to Congress.

The delegates of Massachusetts-Bay laid before Congress a resolution of the general court of that colony, passed in November last, extending the commission of their delegates to the last day of January; which was read.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, December 5, 1775.

Resolved, That the naval committee be instructed to engage the French and marines to the first of January, 1777, unless sooner discharged by Congress.

It being suggested that the resolution of Congress, passed the 2d instant, relative to captain Jenkins, was grounded on a mistake with regard to facts,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to take the matter into consideration, enquire into facts, and report to Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. J. Adams, Mr. Cushing, and Mr. McKean.

The committee of claims applying for instructions with regard to fundry charges in the accounts laid before them from the colony of Rhode-Island,

Resolved, That the charge for purchasing and repairing arms be not allowed.

That the expense of removing the stock from Block-Island and other places, in consequence of the request of the general be charged to the continent.

That the twelve cannon furnished to the army in the camp at Cambridge, by the government of Rhode-Island, be allowed in their accounts.

Resolved, That the farther consideration of this matter be deferred till to-morrow.

Resolved, That those who supply the three companies ordered to Northampton with arms, shall either have the same returned in kind as soon as they can be procured, or their value paid for by the United Colonies, the value of which is to be deducted from the pay of the soldiers.

A letter from Lord Sterling, with fundry papers enclosed, was laid before Congress and read.

Resolved, That the naval committee has liberty to purchase duck and such other articles as they may want for fitting out said vessels, and to enable them the better to perform this service, that they be empowered to take to their assistance the committee of the city and liberties of Philadelphia.

Resolved, That the form of the bills ordered to be emitted be as follows:

CONTINENTAL CURRENCY.

No. Dollar

This bill entitles the bearer to receive Spanish mill-dollars, or the value thereof in gold or silver, according to a resolution of Congress passed at Philadelphia, November 29, 1775.

Resolved, That each denomination or class of bills be numbered, beginning with one, upwards, in ink of a different colour from the last emitted bills.

The committee on re-captures, brought in their report, which being read and debated, the Congress came to the following resolution:

Resolved, That in cases of re-captures, the re-captors have and retain in lieu of salvage, one eighth part of the true value of the vessel and cargo, or either of them, if the same hath or have been in possession of the enemy twenty-four hours; one fifth part if more than twenty-four hours, and less than forty-eight hours; one

third part, if more than forty-eight and less than ninety-six hours ; and one half if more than ninety-six hours, unless the vessel shall, after the capture, have been legally condemned as a prize by some court of admiralty, in which case the re-captors to have the whole : in all which cases, the share detained or prize to be divided between the owners of the ship making the re-capture, the colony or the continent as the case may be, and the captors, agreeable to a former resolution.

Resolved, As the army to the northward is likely to be supplied with cloathing at Montreal, that the cloathing purchased for the said army and sent to Albany, be forwarded by land to Mr. Mifflin, quarter master-general, for the use of the army before Boston.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,
Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, December 6, 1775.

The committee of claims reported, that there is due to Robert Ervin, for waggon-hire, the sum of 355.7 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

Resolved, That the three prisoners taken by captain A. Whipple, in his passage to Philadelphia, who are now on board his vessel, be delivered to the committee of safety of the colony of Pennsylvania, who are directed to secure them in safe custody, in some gaol in said colony.

A return being laid before Congress of the number of flints for sale in the city of Philadelphia, amounting to upwards of 200,000,

Resolved, That the committee of inspection of the city and liberties of Philadelphia be desired to purchase said flints for the use of the United Colonies, and that in making the purchase, attention be paid to that part of the association against raising the prices of goods.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the instructions to be given to the committee of claims, and on the question put,

Resolved, That the charge for bounty in the account exhibited by Rhode-Island against the United Colonies be not allowed.

The committee, to whom the petition of Dougal McGregor was referred, brought in their report, which being read, was agreed to as follows, viz.

Resolved, That the circumstances stated in the said petition, will not justify a licence to export the lumber, and naval stores mentioned in the said petition, contrary to the rules of American association.

Resolved, That if the said Dougal McGregor will give bond, with sufficient security, in a penalty of double the value of the said lumber and naval stores, to the president of the provincial council of North-Carolina, with conditions that he will not carry the said cargo to Great Britain, Ireland, Guernsey, Jersey, Sark, Alderney, Man, or any European island, or settlement within the British dominions, nor to the British West-Indies ; and that he shall within six months

after exporting the same, import into Edenton, Newbern, or Bogue inlet, in the colony of North-Carolina, and there deliver to the commander of the continental troops in the said colony, such quantity of muskets, or gun-powder, as shall be equal to the value of the said lumber, and naval stores, the public interest requires that he be permitted to export the same, and that a permit for that purpose signed by the said president be given him on his executing such bond as aforesaid.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on proclamations, which being debated by paragraphs, was agreed to as follows :

We, the delegates of the thirteen United Colonies in North-America, have taken into our most serious consideration, a proclamation issued from the court of St. James's on the twenty-third day of August last. The name of majesty is used to give it a sanction and influence ; and, on that account, it becomes a matter of importance to wipe off, in the name of the people of these United Colonies, the aspersions which it is calculated to throw upon our cause ; and to prevent, as far as possible, the undeserved punishments, which it is designed to prepare for our friends. We are accused of “ forgetting the allegiance which we owe to the power that has protected and sustained us.” Why all this ambiguity and obscurity in what ought to be so plain and obvious, as that he who runs may read it ? What allegiance is it that we forget ? Allegiance to parliament ? We never owed—we never owned it. Allegiance to our king ? Our words have ever avowed it, our conduct has ever been consistent with it. We condemn, and with arms in our hands,—a resource which freemen will never part with,—we oppose the claim and exercise of unconstitutional powers, to which neither the crown nor parliament were ever entitled. By the British constitution, our best inheritance, rights, as well as duties, descend upon us : We cannot violate the latter by defending the former : we should act in diametrical opposition to both, if we permitted the claims of the British parliament to be established, and the measures pursued in consequence of those claims to be carried into execution among us. Our sagacious ancestors provided wounds against the inundation of tyranny and lawless power on one side, as well as against that of faction and licentiousness on the other. On which side is the breach been made ? Is it objected against us by the most inveterate and the most uncandid of our enemies, that we have opposed any of the just prerogatives of the crown, or any legal exertion of those prerogatives ? Why then are we accused of forgetting our allegiance ? we have performed our duty : We have resisted in those cases, in which the right to resist is stipulated as expressly on our part, as the right to govern is, in other cases, stipulated on the part of the crown. The breach of allegiance is removed from our resistance as far as tyranny is removed from legal government. It is alleged, that “ we have proceeded to an open and avowed rebellion.” In what does this rebellion consist. It is thus described—“ Arraying ourselves in

hostile manner, to withstand the execution of the law, and traitorously preparing, ordering, and laying war against the king." We know of no laws binding on us, but such as have been transmitted to us by our ancestors, and such as have been consented to by ourselves, or our representatives elected for that purpose. What laws, stampd with these characters, have we withstood? We have indeed defended them: and we will risque every thing, do every thing, and suffer every thing in their defence. To support our laws, and our liberties established by our laws, we have prepared, ordered, and levied war. But is this traitorously, or against the king? We view him as the constitution represents him. That tells us he can do no wrong. The cruel and illegal attacks, which we oppose, have no foundation in the royal authority. We will not, on our part, lose the distinction between the king and his ministers: happy would it have been for some former princes, had it always been preserved on that part of the crown.

Besides all this, we observe, on this part of the proclamation, that "rebellion" is a term undefined and unknown in the law; it might have been expected that a proclamation, which by the British constitution has no other operation than merely that of enforcing what is already law, would have had a known legal basis to have rested upon. A correspondence between the inhabitants of Great-Britain and their brethren in America, produced, in better times, much satisfaction to individuals, and much advantage to the public. By what criterion shall one, who is unwilling to break off this correspondence, and is, at the same time, anxious not to expose himself to the dreadful consequences threatened in this proclamation—by what criterion shall he regulate his conduct? He is admonished not to carry on correspondence with the persons now in rebellion in the colonies. How shall he ascertain who are in rebellion, and who are not? He consults the law to learn the nature of the supposed crime: the law is silent upon the subject. This, in a country where it has been often said, and formerly with justice, that the government is by law, and not by men, might render him perfectly easy. But proclamations have been sometimes dangerous engines in the hands of those in power: information is commanded to be given to one of the secretaries of state, of all persons "who shall be found carrying on correspondence with the persons in rebellion, in order to bring to condign punishment the authors, perpetrators, or abettors, of such dangerous designs." Let us suppose, for a moment, that some persons in the colonies are in rebellion, and that those who carry on correspondence with them, might learn by some rule, which Britons are bound to know, how to discriminate them, does it follow that all correspondence with them deserves to be punished. It might have been intended to apprise them of their danger, and to reclaim them from their crimes. By what law does a correspondence with a criminal *betray* or communicate his guilt? We know that those who aid and adhere to the king's enemies, and those who correspond with them in order to enable them to carry

their designs into effect, are criminal in the eye of the law. But the law goes no farther. Can proclamations, according to the principles of reason and justice, and the constitution, go farther than the law?

But, perhaps, the principles of reason and justice, and the constitution will not prevail: experience suggests to us the doubt. If they should not, we must resort to arguments drawn from a very different source. We, therefore, in the name of the people of these United Colonies, and by authority, according to the purest maxims of representation, derived from them, declare, that whatever punishment shall be inflicted upon any persons in the power of our enemies for favouring, aiding, or abetting the cause of American liberty, shall be retaliated in the same kind, and the same degree upon those in our power, who have favoured, aided, or abetted, or shall favour, aid, or abet the system of ministerial oppression. The essential difference between our cause, and that of our enemies, might justify a severer punishment: the law of retaliation will unquestionably warrant one equally severe.

We mean not, however, by this declaration, to occasion or to multiply punishments: our sole view is to prevent them. In this unhappy and unnatural controversy, in which Britons fight against Britons, and the descendants of Britons, let the calamities immediately incident to a civil war suffice. We hope additions will not from wantonness be made to them on one side: we shall regret the necessity, if laid under the necessity, of making them on the other.

Ordered, That the above be published.

A memorial from colonel Bull. was presented to Congress and read,

Resolved, That the same be taken into consideration on Friday next.

Resolved, That lieutenant Feltham, have leave to join the officers of the 26th regiment, and reside with them in the places destined for their reception.

Resolved, That major Preston, and the officer with him, remain in Philadelphia until farther orders from Congress.

Ordered, That the president inform major Preston of this resolution.

A letter from general Washington, dated 28th November, being received, was read,

Resolved, That the same be taken into consideration to-morrow morning.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

Thursday, December 7, 1775.

The Congress, being informed that the women and children taken at St. John's, with the baggage, were arrived,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of the colony of Pennsylvania, to have them removed in the cheapest manner, at the expense of the United Colonies, to the places assigned them.

Resolved, That lieutenant George Cuppidge, of the 26th regiment, be permitted to go to New-York for a week upon his parole, that he will neither speak nor write to any person upon any political subject, or give any intelligence whatsoever upon such topics, and will return to Philadelphia at the end of the week.

A letter from lord Sterling, dated the 6th, was received and read.

The Congress taking into consideration the general's letter of the 28th ult, came to the following resolutions :

Whereas doubts may arise respecting the true intent and construction of a certain resolution of Congress, passed the 4th day of November last, empowering the general, in case the necessity of the service should require it, to call forth the minute-men and militia of the New-England colonies,

Resolved, That the said resolution shall not extend or be construed to authorize the general to call forth the said minute-men or militia, without having applied to and obtained the consent of those officers, in whom the executive powers of government in those colonies may be vested.

Resolved, That the president write letters to the council of Massachusetts-Bay, the convention of New-Hampshire, and the governors of Rhode-Island and Connecticut, acquainting them with the present state of the army, and enclosing copies of the resolutions of this Congress, relative to the general's being empowered to call forth the militia of those governments, on any emergency, and requesting those colonies to exert themselves in defence of our common liberties, by affording the general all the aid in their power, and comply with his request for the assistance of the militia whenever he may find it necessary to apply for it.

A letter from general Schuyler of the 22d of November, together with a copy of a letter from general Montgomery of the 17th, and one from colonel Arnold of the 14th of the same month, being received, were read.

Th' several matters to this day referred being postponed,
Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, December 8, 1775.

The committee, to whom the petition of captain Jenkins was referred, brought in their report, which was read.

The committee to whom the letter from the committee of inspection of the county of Frederick, in Maryland, relative to Allen Cameron, John Smith, and John Connolly, with the papers enclosed, was referred, brought in their report, which being taken into consideration,

Resolved, That the said Allen Cameron, John Smith, and John Connolly, be confined in prison at Philadelphia, at the continental expence, until the further order of Congress.

Ordered, That the president transmit a copy of the above resolution to the committee of Frederick, and desire them, in pursuance thereof, to send the prisoners under guard to Philadelphia.

Resolved, That the petition of Jonathan Hudson, be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Penn, and Mr. R. Morris.

The Congress, taking into consideration the letters from lord Sterling, came to the following resolutions :

Resolved, That Mr. Thomas Lowry be appointed to supply the battalions raised in New-Jersey, with the rations and other necessaries allowed them, $\frac{3}{5}\frac{1}{3}$ of a dollar per ration.

Resolved, That Mr. Grane be directed to give Mr. Lowry proper orders for securing, for the use of the battalions raised in New-Jersey, the blankets in the barracks of that colony.

Resolved, That the companies of the two battalions raised in New-Jersey, not already ordered to the fort on Hudson's river, in the highlands, in the colony of New-York, be, and they are hereby, ordered to march as soon as they can be furnished with barrack necessaries and arms, to the city of New-York, and there remain till further orders ; and that four of the companies ordered to the fort in the highlands, be likewise stationed in the city of New-York, till barracks can be fitted up for them in that fort.

Resolved, That a surgeon be allowed to each battalion, in the service of the United Colonies ; and that his pay be 25 dollars per calendar month.

Whereupon, William Barnet, jun. was elected surgeon to lord Sterling's, or the first battalion raised in New-Jersey.

Resolved, That a standing committee, composed of a member from each colony, be appointed to receive the applications, and examine into the qualifications of the several persons, who apply for offices in the American army, and report to Congress.

The members are, Mr. Bartlett, Mr. S. Adams, Mr. Ward, Mr. Dyer, Mr. Jay, Mr. W. Livingston, Mr. Allen, Mr. Rodney, Mr. F. L. Lee, Mr. Penn, and Mr. Lynch.

Resolved, That the part of lord Sterling's letter, which respects the arresting and imprisoning soldiers for small sums, be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. Jay, Mr. Willson, and Mr. W. Livingston.

Resolved, That Mr. Bedford, the deputy muster master-general, who is now in town, be directed to muster the battalion raised in Pennsylvania, and make return to Congress as soon as possible.

The committee on establishing expresses, brought in their report, which was read.

Ordered, That the letter from general Schuyler, with the enclosed letters from general Montgomery and colonel Arnold, be published.

The several matters to this day referred, being farther postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

SATURDAY, December 9, 1775.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to fit out armed vessels, be empowered to employ the following officers, and that their pay be as follows, viz.

Midshipman,	12	dollars	per calendar month.
Armourer,	15	do.	do.
Sail-maker,	12	do.	do.
Yeoman,	9	do.	do.
Quarter-master,	9	do.	do.
Quarter-gunner,	8	do.	do.
Cook,	12	do.	do.
Coxswain,	9	do.	do.

Pilot according to the usual rates ; when absolutely necessary, the commander to give such farther gratuity as may be necessary for the good of the service.

Resolved, That an order issue for raising four battalions more in the colony of Pennsylvania, on the same terms as the one already raised.

Resolved, That a like order issue for raising one battalion in the lower counties on Delaware, on the same terms as those ordered to be raised in Pennsylvania.

The Congress took into consideration the letters from general Schuyler, from the 11th of November inclusive, and thereupon came to the following resolutions :

Resolved, That the orders given to general Montgomery, to purchase cloathing at Montreal, for the troops under his command, be and are approved.

Resolved, That the officers, who are prisoners, be allowed to sell their bills for their subsistence.

Resolved, That major Preston, captain Kinnear, captain Goodwin, and major Stopford, pay to the continental treasurers, the sums advanced them by general Schuyler, and that general Schuyler be informed of this resolution, and desired to send their obligations to the treasurers.

Resolved, That general Montgomery be appointed a major-general in the army of the United Colonies.

Resolved, That the sum of 166 dollars per month, be allowed to the commander for the time being in the province of Canada, and residing there, for the expense of his table, over and above the pay, to which he may be entitled by his commission.

Resolved, That the several other matters in general Schuyler's letters, and the enclosed papers, except what relates to Mr. Phelps, be referred to a committee of three, who are to take the same into consideration, and report thereon to Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. McKean, and Mr. Wythe.

Resolved, That the sum of 3000 dollars be advanced to Carpenter Wharton, who has contracted to supply the battalion raised in Pennsylvania, at 7.90 of a dollar per ration, the same to be paid

him on his signing the contract, and giving security for the performance thereof.

The committee of claims reported, that there is due to William Chew, for riding exprefs to the faltpetre rock in Virginia, and bringing famples of the mineral, the fum of 84.3 dollars.

Ordered, That the above be paid.

Colonel Dyer produced an account, amounting to 1956 dollars, for medicines bought and forwarded to the camp at Cambridge.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in his favour for that fum.

The commiffioners for Indian affairs in the middle department, laid before Congress the minutes of their proceedings.

Ordered, That the fame be referred to Wednesday next.

Resolved, That Monday next be affigned for taking into consideration the instructions to the delegates of Rhode-Island.

The feveral matters to this day referred, being postponed, Adjourned to ten o'clock on Monday.

Monday, December 11, 1775.

A letter from general Washington, dated 30th of November, being received, was read, together with an invoice of stores on board the Nancy transport, taken by the schooner Lee, captain Manley, also a letter from the convention of New-York, dated 7th instant.

The committee, to whom that part of lord Sterling's letter, respecting the arrelting and imprifoning foldiers for small fums, was referred, brought in their report.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress took into consideration the instructions given to the delegates of Rhode-Island, and after debate thereon,

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to devise ways and means for furnishing these colonies with a naval armament, and report with all convenient speed.

Resolved, That the committee confift of a member from each colony, viz. Mr. Bartlett, Mr. S. Adams, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Deane, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Crane, Mr. Morris, Mr. Read, Mr. Paca, Mr. R. H. Lee, Mr. Hewes, and Mr. Gadsden.

The Congress then took into consideration the report of the committee on the petition of Thomas Jenkins, of the island of Nantucket, for licence to fell his cargo of oil in this city, and to purchase a cargo of provisions and fuel for the necessary use of the inhabitants of said island, and the same was agreed to as follows :

Resolved, That the vigilance and zeal of the committee of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, in preventing the said Jenkins's cargo from being fold, contrary to the resolutions of Congress, is highly approved.

Resolved, That it appears to this Congress, that the inhabitants of said island are at present in great distress for want of the necessaries of life.

Resolved, That humanity requires that some speedy measures be

taken by the Congress, to enable the said inhabitants to supply themselves with necessary fuel and provisions.

Resolved, That the select-men of the town of Sherbourne, in Nantucket, prepare an estimate of the quantity of fuel, and provisions necessary for the use of said inhabitants, and lay it before three or more justices of the peace, for the county of Barnstable, in the colony of Massachusetts-Bay, attested by the oath or affirmation of the said select-men; and that the said justices be empowered to grant licences under their hands to any master or owner of vessels in the said island, to import fuel and provisions from the colonies of Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, lower counties on Delaware, or Maryland, not exceeding the quantities specified in said estimate.

Resolved, Whereas it appears that the said inhabitants are in immediate danger of suffering for want of the necessaries of life, that the said captain Jenkins be permitted, under the inspection of the committee of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, to unload and sell his present cargo, and to purchase a cargo of fuel and provisions, provided he shall first make oath or affirmation before a magistrate, and give bond, that the same is, *bona fide*, intended for the internal consumption of the said inhabitants, and that he will use his utmost endeavours, that it shall not fall into the hands of the enemies of the United Colonies.

The committee, to whom the petition of Jonathan Hudson was referred, reported their opinion in certain resolutions, which being read, were agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That so much of the said petition as prays for permission to export his cargo to any place, other than the islands of Great-Britain, Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, or Man, or the West-India islands, is reasonable.

Resolved, That so much of the said petition as prays for farther permission is unreasonable.

Resolved, That the said petitioner give bond, with sufficient security, to the chairman of the committee of the town of Baltimore, under a penalty of double the value of said cargo, to export the said cargo to some place other than the islands of Great-Britain, Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, Man, and the islands of the West-Indies; and within six months after the said exportation, to produce to the said chairman a certificate of the port, to which the said cargo shall have been shipped, authenticated under the hands of two merchants of known characters and reputation, residing in the same port; and that on executing such bond, the said chairman sign a permit to the said petitioner, allowing him to export the said cargo.

The Congress resuming the subject of emitting bills of credit,

Resolved, That the following gentlemen be appointed to sign and number the bills ordered to be admitted, viz. Samuel Morris, Frederick Kuhl, Stephen Collins, Nicholas Garrison, Matthew Clarkson, Samuel C. Morris, Thomas Barclay, Anthony Morris, jun.

James Wharton, Benjamin Fuller, Joel Evans, Andrew Bunner, John Meafe, Thomas Coombe, John Bayard, Robert Tuckniss, Isaac Hazlehurst, Thomas Morris, Samuel Caldwell, John Purviance, Mordecai Lewis, George Campbell, Joseph Parker, Daniel Clymer, Joseph Watkins, jun. John Shee, Phineas Bond, James Read, Robert Roberts, John Ord, Isaac Howell, William Webb, Jonathan B. Smith, Cornelius Barnes, Thomas Smith, and William Crispin.

Resolved, That each bill be signed, and numbered by two of the foregoing gentlemen.

A petition from Mr. Phelps, was presented and read,

Ordered, That the same be taken into consideration to-morrow.

The committee appointed to examine the qualifications of persons applying for offices, &c. reported Dr. Boyd as proper for the office of surgeon to the battalion raised in Pennsylvania, and Mr. Patterson adjutant, whereupon,

Dr. Boid was unanimously elected.

A petition from David Beveridge, being laid before Congress and read,

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. Jay, Mr. Read, and Mr. Jefferson.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers for the sum of 3000 dollars, in favour of the committee of correspondence.

Resolved, That to-morrow be assigned to take into consideration the report of the committee of conference respecting Boston.

A letter from the commissioners for Indian affairs in the southern department, enclosing sundry papers, was received and read.

The committee on the credit of paper currency, brought in their report.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, December 12, 1775.

Resolved, That the intercepted letters of Brooke Watson, and the invoice of the cargo on board the brig Nancy transport, taken by the schooner Lee, captain Manly, be published.

Sundry letters relative to a cargo of molasses, taken out of the brig Nancy; also a letter from the committee of Trenton, enclosing a parole signed by the officers there, were laid before Congress and read.

The committee appointed to prepare letters of thanks to the three general officers in the northern army, reported draughts, which being read and approved,

Ordered, That they be signed by the president and transmitted.

The committee on general Schuyler's letters, brought in their report, which was read.

Resolved, That the allowance for a table, made to the commander for the time being in Canada, be granted to general Montgomery, for the time he entered Canada.

Resolved, That this Congress will make a present of a sword of the value of one hundred dollars, to captain Henry B. Livingston, as a testimony of their sense of his service to this country, and that they will embrace the first opportunity of promoting him in the army.

Resolved, That the sum of 120,000 dollars be advanced to the colony of Rhode-Island, in part of their account against the United Colonies, to be paid out of the emission last ordered, the said colony to be accountable for the same.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress took into consideration the report of the committee of conference, and after debate,

Resolved, That the Congress will to-morrow resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take this matter into farther consideration.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,
Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, December 13, 1775.

A letter from general Washington of the 4th instant, enclosing sundry papers, being received, was read.

The committee appointed to devise ways and means for fitting out a naval armament, brought in their report, which being read and debated, was agreed to as follows :

That five ships of 32 guns, five of 28 guns, three of 24 guns, making in the whole thirteen, can be fitted for the sea probably by the last of march next, viz. in New-Hampshire one, in Massachusetts-Bay two, in Connecticut one, in Rhode-Island two, in New-York two, in Pennsylvania four, and in Maryland one.

That the cost of these ships, so fitted, will not be more than 66,666 $\frac{2}{3}$ dollars each, on an average, allowing two compleat suits of sails for each ship, equal in the whole to 866,666 $\frac{2}{3}$ dollars.

That the materials for fitting them may be all furnished in these colonies, except the articles of canvas and gun-powder ; and that therefore it will be proper the Congress direct the most speedy and effectual means of importing the said articles of canvas and powder ; that of the former, 7500 pieces will be wanted, and that of the latter, one hundred tons.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed with full powers to carry the said report into execution, with all possible expedition, (except what relates to canvas and powder) at the expense of the United Colonies.

Resolved, That the appointment of this committee be deferred till to-morrow.

Resolved, That it be an instruction to the secret committee to embrace the best and earliest opportunities to procure the quantity of duck and powder in the above report.

Mr. Willing, one of the secret committee, desiring to be excused on account of his living out of town, which rendered it impractica-

ble for him to attend the committee, which usually meets in the evening:

Resolved, That he be excused, and another be elected in his room.
The member chosen, Mr. R. Morris.

Resolved, That when this Congress shall adjourn, it will be necessary to appoint a committee to sit during the adjournment, for the purpose of superintending the treasury, carrying on necessary correspondence, and such other services as shall be directed by Congress.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to consider and prepare instructions for the committee above-mentioned.

The members chosen, Mr. Jefferfon, Mr. Hooper, Dr. Franklin, Mr. Jay, and Mr. Deane.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to fit out armed vessels, be authorized to give able-bodied seamen, that may be willing to enter on board the ships of war of the United Colonies, eight dollars per calendar month.

Information being given that fundry persons in this city have lately sold tea,

Resolved, That the consideration of this matter be referred to Friday next.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, December 14, 1775.

Resolved, That on the meeting of Congress, half an hour every morning be employed in reading the corrected copy or the journal, till the whole is gone through.

Resolved, That every morning the minutes of the preceding day be read, before the Congress enter on new business.

Resolved, That the corrected journal, after being read, be transcribed, and sent to the press.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress proceeded to the appointment of a committee, to carry into execution the resolutions of Congress, for fitting out a naval armament.

Resolved, That the said committee consist of a member from each colony.

Resolved, That the choice be by ballot.

The members chosen, Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Hancock, Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Deane, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Crane, Mr. R. Morris, Mr. Read, Mr. Chase, Mr. R. H. Lee, Mr. Hewes, Mr. Gadsden, and Mr. Houston.

Congress took into consideration general Washington's letter of the 4th, whereupon,

Resolved, That the second resolution in the report of the committee on the general's letter, relative to transports, be committed.

Resolved, That lieutenant Hay, of the 7th regiment, who is now a prisoner, have liberty to return to Great-Britain, on his parole, not to take up arms against America, during the present contest between Great-Britain and these colonies.

A petition from Peter Berlon, was presented to Congress and read,

Resolved, That the said petition, with the papers accompanying it, be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. E. Rutledge, Mr. Lynch, and Mr. Smith.

The several matters to this day referred, being further postponed, Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, December 15, 1775.

Information being given to Congress, that captain Motte, who had the charge of conducting the prisoners to Reading, and other towns in Pennsylvania, having performed that service, was returned to this city.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to distribute the prisoners, confer with captain Motte, and report to Congress.

Resolved, That the committee of safety for the colony of Pennsylvania, be requested to recommend proper persons for field officers of the four battalions to be raised in the said colony.

Resolved, That the said committee appoint proper persons for officers in the said battalion, under the rank of majors.

Resolved, That similar orders be given to the committee of safety of the lower counties on Delaware, for recommending field officers, and appointing inferior officers, for the battalion to be raised in that colony.

Resolved, That Messrs. George Meade and company, merchants, of the city of Philadelphia, be permitted to export from the colony of Virginia, so much of the produce of that country, as shall be equal in value to any quantity of salt, not exceeding six thousand bushels, which they shall carry and safely deliver there to the committee of safety or their order, who are empowered to regulate the prices of the said produce and salt; and that the said George Meade and company, having given to the delegates of the said colony, in this city, bond with sufficient security, under a penalty of double the value of the said salt, that they will not carry any produce of the said colony, which they may receive in return for their salt, to the islands of Great-Britain, Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney, or Man, or to the West-India islands, and producing to the committee of safety of the said colony a certificate thereof, signed by the said delegates here, shall have a permit under the hand of the chairman of the said committee of safety, to export the said produce, the said permit being to be endorsed on, or annexed to a manifest of the cargo exported.

The committee appointed to prepare instructions for the committee who are to sit during the recess of Congress, brought in their report, which was read.

The committee of claims reported that there is due,

To Robert Erwin, wagon-master, for the carriage of cloathing to Dobb's ferry, the sum of 40 dollars.

To Philip Livingston, Esq; for printing, &c. the sum of 56.2 dollars.

To fundries, for provisions, &c. furnished to several companies of riflemen, the sum of 212 dollars, to be paid to Henry Wisner, Esq.

To the committee of observation at Prince-Town, for fundry expenses, and for provisions furnished several rifle companies, the sum of 74.3 dollars, to be paid to Thomas Higgins.

Ordered, That the said accounts be paid.

The committee to whom the second resolution in the report, relative to transports, was recommitted, brought in their report, which was read.

The several matters to this day referred, being further postponed,
Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

SATURDAY, December 16, 1775.

A letter from general Wallington of the 7th, being received, was read.

A letter from the convention of New-York of the 9th, being laid before Congress and read,

Ordered, That this be referred to the committee on the credit of the continental currency.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to carry into execution the resolutions of Congress relative to a naval armament, be empowered to draw on the treasurers, from time to time, for any sums, not exceeding 500,000 dollars, for carrying said resolutions into execution.

Resolved, That the delegates of Virginia and Maryland, be a committee to prepare instructions for colonel Irvine.

The committee appointed to confer with captain Motte, brought in a report, which was read.

The committee of claims reported, that there is due to Josiah Fessenden, for riding express three times to the camp at Cambridge, and once to Rhode-Island, and for expenses and horse-hire, a balance amounting to 126 dollars.

To Daniel King, for 36 days hire of a sulky for said J. Fessenden, the sum of 18 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

Captain White Eyes, a Delaware chief, who came down with the commissioners for Indian affairs in the middle department, being introduced to Congress, the president addressed him in the following manner :

“ *Brother Captain White Eyes,*

We are glad to see you, and we bid you welcome to this council-fire, kindled for all the United Colonies.

We have heard of your friendship for your brethren, the white people, and how useful you have been in preserving peace and harmony between your nation and us, and we thank you for those services.

We are pleased that the Delawares intend to embrace Christianity. We will send you, according to your desire, a minister, and a school master to instruct you in the principles of religion, and other parts of useful knowledge.

We shall be happy in improving every opportunity that shall offer, for convincing your nation, and all other nations of Indians, of our friendly disposition towards them.

Before you leave this city, we will give you some particular testimony of our regard for you."

The Congress, taking into consideration the report of the committee, who conferred with captain Motte,

Upon motion made, *Resolved*, That the officers be distributed in such places as are most agreeable to themselves, observing always the former resolutions of Congress on this subject, and that the officers and privates be not stationed in the same places, until the farther orders of Congress.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with major Preston, and, with him, fix on an agent to negotiate his bills; and with the money arising from the sale of said bills, to supply the prisoners taken at St. John's with cloathing and other necessaries.

The members chosen, Mr. M'Kean, Mr. R. H. Lee, and Mr. S. Adams.

Resolved, That the privates who are prisoners, and have been left by captain Motte at Lancaster, be allowed to remain in that place till the further orders of Congress.

Resolved, That a sum not exceeding 80 dollars be paid to captain Motte, being so much advanced and paid by him for necessaries to his men in conducting the prisoners.

Resolved, That the distribution of the prisoners made by captain Motte be approved.

Resolved, That it be a standing rule of Congress, that no person be allowed to make any motion after 12 o'clock, without special leave, until the orders of the day are either determined or put off to another day.

A petition from sundry merchants of Philadelphia, was presented and read :

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. Morris, Mr. Jefferson, and Mr. Hooper.

The committee to whom the petition of Mr. Beveridge was referred, brought in their report, which was read :

Ordered, To lie on the table.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock on Monday.

MONDAY, December 13, 1775.

The committee appointed to confer with major Preston, reported their proceedings, and that they had not yet come to a conclusion with him on the matter given them in charge.

Resolved, That major Preston have leave to go with captain

Motte to Lancaster, and to remain there ten days, if he chuse to tarry so long.

Resolved, That a copy of the resolutions of Congress, relative to the disposal of the prisoners, and of the parole to be signed by the officers, be sent to the committee of inspection of Lancaster; and that an order issue to the said committee to take the parole of the officers there, and transmit the same to Congress.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of captain Edward Motte, for the farther sum of 80 dollars, he to be accountable for the same.

Sundry affidavits from Wyoming, relative to disturbances there, between the people of Connecticut and Pennsylvania, being laid before the Congress and read,

After debate, *Resolved*, That the consideration of this matter be referred till to-morrow.

Letters from general Schuyler, with sundry letters and papers enclosed being received, were read,

Resolved, That the same be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. Hooper, Mr. M'Kean, and Mr. Jefferson.

The sundry matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

TUESDAY, December 19, 1775.

Resolved, That the committee of safety of Pennsylvania be requested to supply the armed vessels, which are nearly ready to fail, with four tons of gun-powder, at the continental expense.

That the said committee be requested to procure and lend the said vessels as many stands of small arms as they can spare, not exceeding 400, to be repaid by the Congress either in kind or value, as the committee may desire.

That if the powder and arms that may be supplied and lent to the continent for the use of the said armed vessels, shall not be replaced on or before the first day of February next, the Congress engages that their whole influence and authority shall then be exerted immediately, to replace the same, by procuring powder and arms from some other part of the continent.

Resolved, That if the powder supplied and lent to the continent by the city of New-York, shall not be replaced on or before the first of February next, the Congress engages that their whole influence and authority shall then be exerted immediately to replace the same, by providing powder from some other part of the continent.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resumed the consideration of the general's letter, and the report of the committee on the second resolution in their former report, which was recommitted, and thereupon came to the following resolution:

Resolved, That all transport vessels in the same service, having on board any troops, arms, ammunition, cloathing, provisions, military or naval stores of what kind soever, and all vessels to whomsoever belonging, that shall be employed in carrying provisions or other ne-

cessaries to the British army or armies, or navy, that now are or shall hereafter be within any of the United Colonies, or any goods, wares, or merchandizes, for the use of such fleet and army, shall be liable to seizure, and, with their cargoes, shall be confiscated.

The committee on the qualifications of officers applying, &c. brought in a report, which was read :

Ordered, To lie on the table.

The committee on the state of Virginia, brought in their report, which being read,

Ordered, To lie on the table.

A letter from general Washington being received, was read.

The several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, December 20, 1775.

The committee of claims report, that there is due to fundry persons for necessaries furnished to the rifle companies in Virginia, the sum of 640.5 dollars, and that the same ought to be paid to Thomas Rutherford.

To Rebecca Reynolds, for horse hire, the sum of 6.9 dollars, and the same ought to be paid to Henry Wisner, Esq.

Ordered, That the above be paid.

Resolved, That orders be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of the reverend Mr. Elihu Spencer, and the reverend Mr. Alexander M^rWhorter, who have undertaken to go to North-Carolina, for the sum of 120 dollars each, being three months advance, they to be accountable.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on the petition of David Beveridge, which was agreed to ; whereupon,

Resolved. That the said petition is unreasonable ; *Resolved*, nevertheless, that for the more speedy arming these colonies, the said David Beveridge be permitted to export a cargo of the produce of America (live stock and lumber excepted) to any part of the world, except Great-Britain, the British Islands, Ireland, or the British West-Indies, on his giving bond, with sufficient security, in double the amount of the said cargo, to the chairman of the committee of inspection of the city and liberties of Philadelphia, or to such persons as the said committee shall appoint, that he will import, into these colonies, by the first day of June next, the amount of the proceeds of the said cargo, in arms, ammunition, or saltpetre, and shall dispose of the same to the Congress, for the use of the United Colonies, at such reasonable prices, as by the committee of inspection of the place in which the vessel shall arrive, shall be ascertained and determined.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the general's letters, and thereupon came to the following resolution :

Resolved, That the several vessels heretofore taken and carried into Massachusetts-Bay, by the armed vessels in the service of the United Colonies, be proceeded against by the rules of the law of

nations, and libelled in the courts of admiralty erected in said colony.

The Congress taking into consideration the dispute between the people of Pennsylvania and Connecticut, on the waters of Susquehannah, came to the following resolution :

Whereas a dispute subsists between some of the inhabitants of the colony of Connecticut, settled under the claim of the said colony, on the lands near Wyoming, on the Susquehannah river, and in the Delaware country, and the inhabitants settled under the claim of the proprietors of Pennsylvania, which dispute, it is apprehended, will, if not suspended during the present troubles in these colonies, be productive of pernicious consequences, which may be very prejudicial to the common interest of the United Colonies ; therefore,

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Congress, and it is accordingly recommended, that the contending parties immediately cease all hostilities, and avoid every appearance of force, until the dispute can be legally decided ; that all the property taken and detained, be restored to the original owners ; that no interruption be given by either party to the free passing and repassing of persons behaving themselves peaceably through the disputed territory, as well by land as water, without molestation of either persons or property ; that all persons seized and detained on account of said dispute, on either side, be dismissed and permitted to go to their respective homes ; and that, things being put in the same situation they were before the late unhappy contest, they continue to behave themselves peaceably on their respective possessions and improvements, until a legal decision can be had on said dispute, or this Congress shall take further order thereon ; and nothing herein done shall be construed in prejudice of the claim of either party.

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, December 21, 1775.

Ordered, That an authentic copy of the resolution passed yesterday, relative to the dispute between the people of Connecticut and Pennsylvania, be transmitted to the contending parties.

The convention of Maryland having added two new members to their delegates, one of them attending, produced the credentials of their appointment, which were read, and are as follows :

Annapolis (Maryland.) In Provincial Convention, Dec. 9, 1775.

Resolved, That Robert Alexander and John Rogers, Esqrs; together with those already appointed, be deputies to represent this province in the continental Congress, and that the said deputies or any three or more of them, have full and ample power to consent and agree to all measures, which such Congress shall deem necessary and effectual to obtain a redress of American grievances, and be authorized to represent and act for this province in any continental Congress, which may be held before the 25th day of March next.

Extract from the minutes,

G. Duvall, Clerk."

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on the qualifications of officers applying, &c. and the same being debated,

Resolved, That forty iron pots be provided for the soldiers, while in the barracks near Philadelphia.

Resolved, That the commissioned officers of each company be allowed, every week, a quarter of a cord of hickory, or other wood in proportion.

Resolved, That there be provided for the battalion raised in Pennsylvania, one hundred haversacks, a camp kettle for every six men, a tomahawk, canteen, cartouch box, knapsack, and two belts for each man.

Resolved, That a coat of uniform be provided for each soldier, and that what the coat costs more than the hunting shirt, which was to have been given them, be deducted from their wages.

Resolved, That the said battalion be paid one month's pay as soon as may be, that afterwards they receive monthly half a month's pay only, until so much is retained, as will amount to the money advanced for their fire arms, cloathing, &c. after which they shall receive their full pay monthly.

Resolved, That it be recommended to the committee of safety of Pennsylvania, to provide arms, for the three companies which are ordered to march; and also to provide the articles ordered above for the use of the said battalion, and likewise to furnish the said battalion with drums, colours and fises.

Dr. James Holmes was chosen surgeon to colonel Maxwell's regiment.

Matthias Halsted was elected quarter-master to lord Sterling's regiment.

Resolved, That the committee on the qualifications of officers, &c. be directed to procure proper medicine-chests for the battalion raised in Pennsylvania and New-Jersey.

The Congress then resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration that part of the report of the committee of conference, relative to an attack on Boston, and after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported, that the committee had taken into consideration the matter referred to them, but not having come to a determination thereon, desired him to move for leave to sit again.

Resolved, That this Congress will to-morrow morning, resolve itself into a committee of the whole, to take into their farther consideration, the report of the committee of conference, relative to the attack on Boston.

Resolved, That Mr. McKean, Mr. Lee, and Mr. S. Adams, be a committee to consider what allowance should be made to the officers who are prisoners, for their support.

Resolved, That Mr. Regenville, a Canadian prisoner at Trenton, be permitted to come to Philadelphia, and there wait the orders of Congress.

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, December 22, 1775.

A letter from general Schuyler of the 14th; also a letter from lord Sterling of the same date, and a letter from captain Livingston, being received, were read.

The committee appointed to fit out armed vessels, laid before Congress a list of the officers by them appointed, agreeable to the powers to them given by Congress, viz.

Ezek Hopkins, Esq; commander in chief of the fleet.

Dudley Saltonstall, captain of the Alfred.

Abraham Whipple, captain of the Columbus.

Nicholas Biddle, captain of the Andrew Doria.

John Burrows Hopkins, captain of the Cabot.

First lieutenants. John Paul Jones, Rhodes Arnold, — Stanbury, Hersted Hacker, Jonathan Pitcher.

Second lieutenants. Benjamin Seabury, Joseph Olney, Elisha Warner, Thomas Weaver, — M'Dougall.

Third lieutenants. John Fanning, Ezekiel Burroughs, Daniel Vaughan.

Resolved, That the pay of the commander in chief of the fleet be 125 dollars per calendar month.

Resolved, That commissions be granted to the above officers agreeable to their rank in the above appointment.

Resolved, That the Committee for fitting out armed vessels, issue warrants to all officers employed in the fleet under the rank of third lieutenants.

Resolved, That the said committee be directed (as a secret committee) to give such instructions to the commander of the fleet, touching the operations of the ships under his command, as shall appear to the said committee most conducive to the defence of the United Colonies, and to the distress of the enemies naval forces and vessels bringing supplies to their fleets and armies, and lay such instructions before the Congress when called for.

Resolved, That the said committee be directed to consider how the shares of the prizes allotted to the captors ought to be divided between the officers and men, and report to Congress.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with the Indians lately arrived, and report to Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. Wythe, Mr. Lynch, and Mr. S. Adams.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into further consideration the report of the committee of conference relative to an attack on Boston, and after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported that the committee had taken into consideration the matter referred to them, and had come to a resolution thereon, which he was ready to report. The report of the committee being read, was agreed to as follows:

Resolved, That if general Washington and his council of war should be of opinion, that a successful attack may be made on the troops in Boston, he do it in any manner he may think expedient,

notwithstanding the town and property in it may thereby be destroyed.

Resolved, That the quarter-master-general have the rank of a colonel in the army of the United Colonies.

The committee of claims reported that there is due,

To Benjamin Harrison, Esq; for his expenses in his late journey to Maryland, the sum of 72.4 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

Ordered, That the examination of Connolly, and the others taken with him, also the papers found in the said Connolly's possession, be printed.

Resolved, That Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Hooper, Dr. Franklin, Mr. Jay, and Mr. Deane, be a committee to examine the journals, and lay before Congress a list of the matters therein that are unfinished, and which are proper to be acted upon.

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

SATURDAY, December 23, 1775.

A letter from lord Sterling of the 19th, being received, was read.

A petition from Seth Paddock, master of the sloop Mayflower, and Sylvanus Coffin, master of the schooner Dolly, of the island of Nantucket, was presented to Congress and read :

Resolved, That the said petition be referred to a committee of three, and that it be an instruction to said committee, to enquire what quantity of provisions and fuel is necessary for the annual internal consumption of the inhabitants of said island of Nantucket, and what quantity has been exported from the different ports of the United Colonies, during the present month of December.

The members chosen, Mr. M'Kean, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Sherman.

One of the committee appointed to repair to Ticonderoga, and confer with general Schuyler, being returned, laid before Congress a report of their proceedings, which was read.

The committee of claims reported that there is due,

To Ephraim Blaine, for expenses incurred by the treaty with the western Indians, and paid by him, the sum of £533 : 19 : 4, and that there is due to Ephraim Steel, for fundries furnished two rifle companies, the sum of £ 14 : 8, which ought to be paid to the said Blaine ; and also 4/8 due to John M'Kee, of which two last sums there ought to be charged to the continent, the sum of £ 5 = 13.3 dollars, for the two cwt. lead, and the remainder to the companies respectively, the whole being 1462.9 dollars.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

The committee to whom the application from the convention of the colony of New-York, for the loan of £ 45,000 was referred, brought in their report, which being read, was agreed to as follows :

Notwithstanding it appears to this committee that the credit of the colony of New-York is unquestionable, and their application for the loan of £.45,000 was suggested by disinterested principles,

yet, that it would not be adviseable, in the opinion of this committee, for the Congress to make the loan proposed.

The committee appointed to confer with the Indians, made report of their proceedings, which was read.

Whereas the colony of Connecticut has by a certain act of their assembly, resolved, that no farther settlements be made on the lands disputed between them and Pennsylvania, without licence from the said assembly,

Resolved, That it be recommended to the colony of Connecticut not to introduce any settlers on the said lands, till the farther order of this Congress, until the said dispute shall be settled.

The committee on the state of the treasury brought in a report, which being read, and in part debated,

Resolved, That the farther consideration thereof be postponed.

The committee appointed to consider what articles are necessary for the army, brought in their report, which was read.

The committee to whom the petition of Peter Berton was referred, brought in their report, which being read, was agreed to, and is as follows :

That after mature consideration had thereon, they are of opinion, that it is not adviseable or proper for the Congress to grant the prayer of the said petition.

Ordered, That the delegates of Pennsylvania call on the treasurers, and enquire of them what sum of hard money they have collected, and report to Congress.

Resolved, That the committee appointed to confer with the Indians, conclude their conference with them, by returning them a friendly answer, and making them a small present.

The committee appointed to examine the journal, &c. laid before Congress a list of the several matters therein, which are yet unfinished.

Ordered, That the several committees, to whom any matters are referred, conclude their business with all convenient dispatch, and report to Congress.

Ordered, That the second paragraph in general Schuyler's letter, relative to the measures taken by the ministerial agents, to engage the Indians in a war with these colonies, be published.

Adjourned to ten o'clock on Tuesday next.

TUESDAY, December 26, 1775.

Two letters from general Washington of the 14th and 16th, with one enclosed from Dr. Morgan, a letter from governor Trumbull of the 20th, with a resolution of the assembly of the colony of Connecticut, also a letter from sundry masters of vessels, dated Guadaloupe, September 19, being received, were read.

The deputy muster-master-general, sent to Congress the muster-rolls of the Pennsylvania battalion by him mustered.

Resolved, That the deputy muster-master, be directed to repair to

New-Jersey, and muster the battalions raised in that colony, and make return to Congress.

Resolved, That Friday next be assigned for taking into consideration the propriety of opening the ports of the United Colonies, after the first day of March next.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the committee on the state of the treasury, and thereupon came to the following resolutions :

Whereas an estimate hath lately been formed of the public expence already arisen, and which may accrue in the defence of America, to the 10th day of June next, in pursuance whereof this Congress on the 29th of November, resolved that a farther sum of three millions of dollars be emitted in bills of credit.

Resolved, That the thirteen United Colonies be pledged for the redemption of the bills of credit so directed to be emitted.

That each colony provide ways and means to sink its proportion of said bills, in such manner, as may be most effectual, and best adapted to the condition, circumstances, and equal mode of levying taxes in each colony.

That the proportion or quota of each respective colony be determined according to the number of inhabitants, of all ages, including negroes and mulattoes in each colony.

That it be recommended to the several assemblies, conventions, or councils, or committees of safety of the respective colonies, to ascertain, by the most impartial and effectual means in their power, the number of inhabitants in each respective colony, taking care that the lists be authenticated by the oaths of the several persons who shall be intrusted with this service ; and that the said assemblies, conventions, councils, or committees of safety, do respectively lay before this Congress, a return of the number of inhabitants of their respective colonies, as soon as the same shall be procured.

That each colony pay its respective quota in four equal payments : the first to be made on or before the last day of November, 1783 ; the second, on or before the last day of November, 1784 ; the third, on or before the last day of November, 1785 ; and the fourth or last, on or before the last day of November, 1786 ; and that for this end, the several assemblies or conventions provide for buying and levying taxes in their respective colonies, towards sinking the continental bills : that the said bills be received by the collectors in payment of such taxes, and be by the collectors paid into the hands of the provincial treasurers, with all such other monies as they may receive in lieu of the continental bills ; which other monies the provincial treasurers shall endeavour to get exchanged for continental bills, and where that cannot be done, shall send to the continental treasurers the deficiency in silver and gold, with the bills, making up the quota to be sunk in that year : taking care to cut, by a circular punch of an inch diameter, an hole in such bills, and to cross the same, thereby to render them unpassable, though the sum or value is to remain fairly

legible ; and the continental treasurers, as fast as they receive the said quotas, shall, with the assistance of a committee of five persons to be appointed by the Congress, if sitting, or by the assembly, or convention of the province of Pennsylvania, examine and count the continental bills, and in the presence of the said committee, burn and destroy them ; and the silver and gold sent them to make up the deficiencies of quotas, they shall retain in their hands until demanded in redemption of continental bills, that may be brought to them for that purpose, which bills so redeemed, they shall also burn and destroy in the presence of the said committee ; and the treasurers, whenever they have silver and gold in their hands for the redemption of continental bills, shall advertise the same, signifying that they are ready to give gold or silver, for such bills, to all persons requiring it in exchange.

The reports of the committees on general Schuyler's letters, and the report of the committee sent to Ticonderoga, being read,

Resolved, That the same be recommitted to Mr. Dickinson, Mr. McKean, Mr. Wythe, Mr. Hooper, Mr. Jefferson, and Mr. Langdon.

The report of the committee, to whom was referred a paragraph of lord Sterling's letter to the Congress, complaining that several of his recruits had been arrested and imprisoned for trifling debts, being taken into consideration, was agreed to as follows :

Whereas there is reason to believe, that divers persons, either from inattention to the public good, or with design to retard the recruiting service, have arrested and imprisoned, for very trifling debts, many soldiers, who had engaged to risque their lives in defence of the liberties of America ; and, as it has always been found necessary, in time of war, to regulate and restrain a practice of such pernicious tendency, and, in such cases, to abate the rigour of the law :

Resolved, therefore, That it be recommended to the several legislatures in these colonies, whether assemblies or conventions, to pass acts or ordinances, prohibiting the arrests of continental soldiers for small debts ; and in order that the same rule may pervade all the colonies, that no soldier be arrested at the suit of any of his creditors, unless the said creditor make oath, that the said soldier is justly indebted to him in the sum of thirty-five dollars over and above all discounts ; and that the estate of no such soldier be liable to attachment at the suit of, or for the benefit of all his creditors, unless their debts in the whole, on being ascertained by their oaths, shall amount to more than one hundred and fifty dollars.

Resolved, That the several letters received from lord Sterling, be referred to a committee of three, who are directed to report an answer.

The members chosen, Mr. Adams, Mr. W. Livingston, and Mr. Jay.

Resolved, That the battalion raised in Pennsylvania, be supplied with gun-brushes, pricklers, double-worms, screw-drivers, and oil ;

and that it be recommended to the committee of safety of the said colony to provide the same.

Whereas this Congress, by a resolution passed the 15th day of July last, did direct that every vessel importing into these colonies, gun-powder, saltpetre, sulphur, and other military stores therein specified, within nine months from the date thereof, should be permitted to load and export the produce of these colonies, to the value of such powder and stores aforesaid, the non-exportation agreement notwithstanding, by permits from the committees of the several colonies; to the end, therefore, that this Congress may be the better informed of the quantity of military stores, which are or shall be so imported, and of the produce exported in consequence of the resolution aforesaid,

Resolved, That it be recommended to all committees by whom any permits, under the said resolution, have been or may be granted, to transmit to this Congress, from time to time, a true account of the military stores, &c. imported, and of the produce exported, with the price and value of both.

Ordered, That the foregoing resolution be published.

The committee appointed to prepare instructions to lieut. col. Irvine brought in a draught, which being read, was agreed to. Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

WEDNESDAY, December 27, 1775.

A letter of the 21st, from the committee of inspection of the town of Lancaster, enclosing the paroles of the officers there, being received, was read.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to confer with captain Motte, and consult with him on the best method of providing the guard under his command with provisions on their return home.

The members chosen, Mr. Calling, Mr. Deane, and Mr. Lynch.

The Congress then took into consideration the report of the committee on the state of Virginia, and after debate, the farther consideration thereof, at the request of a colony, was postponed till to-morrow.

The committee appointed to confer with captain Motte, brought in their report, which being read, was agreed to as follows:

That they find some of said guard have upwards of 240 miles to march: that they will be content with eight dollars each, and bear their own expenses to their respective homes, or to be supplied by a commissary, or any other way as the Congress shall judge best.

It is the opinion of the committee, that the said guard receive a sum not exceeding eight dollars each, in lieu of all other provision for their return; therefore,

Resolved, That captain Motte be empowered to pay to his guard for the purpose aforesaid, a sum not exceeding eight dollars to any one, according to their respective distances, and that he return to

the committee of claims, a list of his men, and an account of the payments to them made.

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, December 28, 1775.

The committee of claims reported, that there is due to Sacheveal Wood, the sum of 91.9 dollars, for support of 17 men to the 21st December, who are confined in the gaol of Philadelphia, by order of Congress.

Ordered, That the same be paid.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of G. Wythe, Esq; one of the committee appointed to confer with the Indians, for the sum of 13½ dollars, as a present to said Indians.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers, in favour of the committee of safety of Pennsylvania, for the sum of 8000 dollars, for the use of the battalion raised in said colony, the said committee to be accountable for the same.

The Congress resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the state of Virginia; and thereupon came to the following resolution:

Resolved, That six battalions are necessary to be immediately raised in Virginia, and that they be raised accordingly, upon the same terms, and paid as the continental forces in the camp at Cambridge, unless the convention of that colony can raise them on better terms.

The Congress took into consideration the report of the secret committee, which being in part agreed to.

Resolved, That the farther consideration thereof be postponed till to-morrow.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to take into consideration the state of New-York, and report thereon to Congress.

The members chosen, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Deane, Mr. Wythe, Mr. W. Livingston, and Mr. Jay.

The committee to whom the petition of captains Paddock and Coffin was referred, brought in their report, which was read.

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, December 29, 1775.

A petition of captain Sellick was presented to Congress and read:

Resolved, That the said petition, with the papers accompanying it, be referred to a committee of three.

The members chosen, Mr. Smith, Mr. Floyd, and Mr. F. Lee.

A petition from a number of the inhabitants of Pennsylvania being read,

Ordered, To lie on the table.

Information being given to Congress of a quantity of arms and ammunition which may be procured,

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to enquire farther into this matter.

The members chosen, Mr. M'Kean, Mr. Jay, and Mr. Lynch.

Agreeable to the order of the day, the Congress resolved itself into a committee of the whole, to take into consideration the trade of the United Colonies, and after some time spent thereon, the president resumed the chair, and Mr. Ward reported that the committee had taken into consideration, the matter to them referred, and had come to certain resolutions, which he was ready to report.

The report of the committee being read, the Congress took the same into consideration, and, thereupon, came to the following resolution :

Resolved, That the colonies of Virginia, Maryland, and North-Carolina, be permitted to export produce from their respective colonies to any part of the world, except Great-Britain, Ireland, the islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Sark, Alderney and Man, and the British West-India islands, and in return, to import so much salt from any part of the world, not prohibited by the association, as the conventions or councils of safety of the two former colonies, and the provincial councils of safety of the two former colonies, and the provincial council of the other shall judge necessary, for the use of the inhabitants thereof, now suffering great distress by the scarcity of that necessary article, proper caution being taken to prevent any abuse of this indulgence, by exceeding in the quantities exported or imported, and that no provisions, slaves, or naval stores be exported, if other commodities may answer the purpose.

Resolved, That as the importation of any universally necessary commodity, and the exportation of our produce, to purchase the same, must give a proportionably greater opportunity to our enemies of making depredations on the property of the inhabitants of these colonies, and of occasionally distressing them by intercepting such commodities, it is earnestly recommended to the several assemblies or conventions immediately to promote, by sufficient public encouragements, the making salt in their respective colonies.

Ordered, That the foregoing resolution be immediately published.

The committee on Indian trade, brought in their report.

The committee on lord Sterling's letters also brought in their report.

A letter of the 16th from the committee of correspondence, in Virginia, was laid before Congress, and read :

Ordered, To lie on the table.

The order of the day being renewed, and the several matters to this day referred, being postponed,

Adjourned to ten o'clock to-morrow.

SATURDAY, December 30, 1775.

Two letters from general Washington of the 19th and 21st, enclosing a copy of a letter to general Howe, and accompanied with a number of intercepted letters, being received and read,

Resolved, That the letters from the general, and the intercepted letters, be referred to a committee of five.

The members chosen, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Hooper, Mr. Wythe, Mr. Deane, and Mr. S. Adams.

A letter from general Schuyler of the 21st, being received, was read.

Another letter from general Washington, dated 14th December, brought by two strangers, was laid before Congress and read.

Resolved, That this be referred to the secret committee, who are directed to confer with the bearers, and to pursue such measures as they may think proper for the interest of the United Colonies.

Resolved. That major Preston have leave to go to Amboy to visit his uncle who lives there, and to remain in that place one week, and then to return to Philadelphia, and wait the orders of Congress.

The committee appointed to enquire into the grounds of the information, respecting a quantity of arms and ammunition being to be procured, report, that they have examined into the same, and have received intelligence that a quantity of arms and ammunition, and other articles are concealed in Tryon county, in which also there are several Tories armed and enlisted in the enemy's service; whereupon,

Resolved, That the said committee be directed to communicate this intelligence to general Schuyler, and, in the name of the Congress, desire him to take the most speedy and effectual measures for securing the said arms and military stores, and for disarming the said Tories, and apprehending their chiefs.

Resolved, That an order be drawn on the treasurers in favour of the said committee, for the sum of forty dollars, for expediting the business to them committed.

Ordered, That the delegates of Pennsylvania do immediately count the silver and gold in the treasury, and forward the same, with all convenient speed, under a guard of five men to gen. Schuyler; and that the persons to be sent by the foregoing committee, accompany said guard.

Resolved, That the treasurers be empowered to employ a broker to collect silver and gold, in exchange for continental bills of credit.

The committee on captain Sellick's petition, brought in their report, which were read.

Resolved, That the contents of the intercepted letters this day read, and the steps which Congress may take in consequence of the intelligence thereby given, be kept secret until farther orders, excepting only that the delegates of Virginia and South-Carolina have leave to send to their conventions, extracts of such parts of the said letters, as they may think necessary for the welfare of their colonies.

The committee on the petition of sundry merchants in Philadelphia, also brought in their report, which was read.

Adjourned to ten o'clock on Monday next.

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